

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1880.

WITH } SIXPENCE.
SUPPLEMENT } By Post, 6½d.



COMPLETION OF THE ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL: MEETING OF WORKMEN FROM THE AIROLO AND GÖSCHENEN SIDES, IN CENTRE OF TUNNEL,
SUNDAY MORNING, FEB. 29, NINE A.M. FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.—SEE PAGE 252.

BIRTHS.

On the 22nd ult., at East Finchley, the wife of F. E. Marshall, of a son (stillborn).

On Jan. 12, at Otupua, Timaru, Canterbury, New Zealand, the wife of Philip Henderson Russell, of a son.

On the 26th ult., at Knocklofty, Clonmel, Ireland, the Countess of Donoughmore, of a daughter.

On the 5th inst., at Gloucester-place, Hyde Park, the Lady Henry V. Cholmondeley, of a son.

On the 3rd inst., at St. Enogat, Ile et Vilaine, the Lady Alice Eyre, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On Dec. 30, at the chapel, Toxteth Park, Sydney, New South Wales, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Sydney, Alexander Leeper, Principal of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, eldest surviving son of the Rev. Dr. Leeper, Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, to Adeline Marian, eldest daughter of the Hon. Sir George Wigram Allen, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

On the 2nd inst., at St. Stephens's Church, South Kensington, by the Right Rev. Bishop Cloughton, Archdeacon of London, assisted by the Rev. Charles Lacy, Rector of All Hallows, London-wall, and the Rev. J. P. Waldo, the Vicar, Edmund Gustavus Bloomfield, son of Edmund Meade-Waldo, Esq., of Stonewall Park, near Peshurst, to Ada Coralie, third daughter of the Right Hon. Sir Richard Baggallay, Lord Justice of Appeal.

DEATHS.

On the 6th inst., at Christ's College Hospital, Hertford, from suppressed scarlet fever, Henry Stanley, the eldest and dearly-loved child of Henry S. and Maria J. Edwards, of Miskerton, Cwreke, aged 10.

On the 8th inst., at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings, John Partridge, Esq., D.L. and J.P. for the counties of Hereford, Gloucester, and Monmouth, in his 86th year.

On the 2nd inst., at Temple Guiting, Jane Elizabeth, the last surviving daughter of George Talbot, Esq.

On the 23rd ult., at Aylburton, Glos., Mary Anne Gardiner, native of Baltimore, aged 78, the last surviving daughter of the late William Gardiner, schoolmaster, editor of the *British Ladies' Magazine*, author of poems, &c., and of many miscellaneous works of juvenile literature, which at one time had a wide circulation; son of Edward Gardiner, lawyer, of Worcester and Whitechurch, descendant of that celebrated Irish Viceroy, Blount, Byron speaks of, by Mary Tudman, niece of Edward Perkins, Esq., of Pilston Manor House, Monmouthshire. A short memoir of her father's life was written by the deceased.

On the 1st inst., at The Hague, the Dowager Baroness Nahys de Burgst (née Hodgson), widow of General Baron Nahys de Burgst.

* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 20.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14.

Fifth Sunday in Lent.
Humbert L. King of Italy, born, 1844.
Morning Lessons: Exod. iii.; Mark xi. 27-xii. 13. Evening Lessons: Exod. v. or vi. 1-14; 1 Cor. vii. 1-25.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. Prebendary Dalton; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Gregory; 7 p.m., the Bishop of Manchester.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 15.

St. Paul's Cathedral, midday services (five days), Rev. W. J. Knox-Little.
British Fisheries Society, anniversary, Willis's Rooms, 2 p.m.
Royal Academy Exhibition of Old Masters was closed on the 13th.
Royal College of Surgeons, 4 p.m. (Professor W. H. Flower on the Comparative Anatomy of Man, and on Wednesday and Friday).
Asiatic Society, 4 p.m. (Capt. Durant on Antiquities discovered by him in the Island of Bahrain, Persian Gulf).
London Institution, 5 p.m. (Mr. H. Moseley on Hydroid Corals).
Tuesday, March 16.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Schäfer on the Physiology of Muscle).
National Life-Boat Institution, anniversary, Willis's Rooms, 3 p.m. (the Duke of Northumberland in the chair).
Humane Society Committee, 4 p.m.
Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m. (discussion on the Purification of Gas).
Statistical Society, 7.45 p.m. (Dr. T. G. Balfour on the Vital Statistics of Cavalry Horses; Prof. L. Levi on a Survey of Crimes and Offences in England and Wales, 1857-78).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17.

St. Patrick.
Accession of William III., King of the Netherlands, 1849.
College of Physicians, Lumen Lecture, 5 p.m. (Dr. W. Roberts on Digestive Ferments, &c.), and on Friday.
Royal Society of Musicians, anniversary festival, Willis's Rooms, 7 p.m. (Lord Chelmsford in the chair).
Guild of St. Luke's, 7.30 p.m. (Dr. A. E. Sansom on our Treatment of Sick Poor).
Dental Surgery Association, 8.30 p.m.
Dialectical Society, 8 p.m.
British Archaeological Association, 8 p.m.
Institution of Naval Architects, anniversary, at Society of Arts, noon (address of Lord Hampton, the president, reports, &c.).
Thursday, March 18.
Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, born, 1848.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Dewar on Recent Chemical Progress).
Association for Oral Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, examination of pupils, Grosvenor House, 3 p.m.
Philosophical Club, 6.30 p.m.
London Institution, 7 p.m. (Professor E. Pauer on English Compositors for the Pianoforte).
Lioness Society, 8 p.m. (H. M. Brewer—Remarks on the Indigeneous Timber and on the Plants introduced into New Zealand; J. T. Carrington on Lithodes Arctica).
Society of Antiquaries, 8.30 p.m.
Friday, March 19.
Moon's first quarter, 0.36 a.m.
Cambridge Lent Term ends.
Institution of Naval Architects, noon and 7 p.m. (papers and discussions).
United Service Institution, 3 p.m. (Admiral Aynsley on the Preservation of Boilers).
City of London College, 6 p.m. (Dr. Heinemann on Political Economy: Revenue of the State).
Bankers' Institute, 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 20.
Oxford Lent Term ends.
Oxford and Cambridge Universities Eight-oared Boat-Race, about 7.30 a.m.

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOM.		WIND.		General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 a.m. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 a.m. next morning.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Maximum, read at 10 a.m.	Minimum, read at 10 p.m.					
Feb. 29	29.610	47.3	42.5	82	10	51.9	42.8			SW.	428	0.015
1	29.391	44.0	34.9	73	5	51.5	39.0			SW. WSW.	544	0.070
2	29.340	46.5	41.6	84	10	51.7	37.6			SW.	749	0.220
3	29.365	50.1	43.1	78	9	53.9	48.8			SW. WSW.	502	0.005
4	29.574	49.1	38.7	70	8	54.7	45.9			W. WSW.	438	0.005
5	29.063	53.2	46.8	80	10	57.8	49.5			SW. WSW. W.	413	0.000
6	30.090	48.6	39.7	74	9	54.3	45.8			SW. SSW.	322	0.000

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected	29.610	29.415	29.367	29.340	29.303	30.020	30.158
Temperature of Air	47.3	44.0	46.5	50.1	49.1	53.2	50.0
Temperature of Evaporation	45.2	44.1	44.8	47.9	43.6	50.8	45.1
Direction of Wind	SW.	WSW.	SW.	WSW.	W.	WSW.	SW.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 20.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
3 50	4 5	4 23	4 40	4 55	5 10	5 25
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
3 50	4 5	4 23	4 40	4 55	5 10	5 25

MR. FRITH'S NEW PICTURES.

THE Proprietor of the KING-STREET GALLERIES begs to announce that Mr. FRITH, R.A., has COMPLETED A SERIES OF FIVE PICTURES, entitled

THE RACE FOR WEALTH.

MR. FRITH'S NEW PICTURES

WILL be ON VIEW at the King-street Galleries, 10, King-street, St. James's, Daily, from Nine until Six, and after MONDAY, APRIL 5. Admission, One Shilling.

MR. FRITH'S NEW PICTURES.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE.

EVERY EVENING at Eight o'clock.
Shylock, Mr. Irving; Portia, Miss Ellen Terry.
MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY DURING MARCH.
Seats booked Six Weeks in advance.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best Entertainment in the World. Variety Artists at Eight. The PERI OF PERU at 8.30—Miss Nelly Power, M. Devienne, Mlle. Alice Holt, and Corps de Ballet. SNOWBALL BALLET at 10.30. Prices, 6d. to 2s. 6d.—Mr. JOHN TRESSIDER'S (Stage Manager) FIRST BENEFIT, MONDAY NEXT, MARCH 15.

CANTERBURY.—The Grand Spectacular SNOWBALL BALLET EVERY EVENING. Novel Effects, received with great applause. Arranged by M. Devienne. Supported by Mlle. Ada, Mlles. Broughton, Powell, M. Carlos, M. Bertram, and the Corps de Ballet.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.

THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS, EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT. And on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS, THREE and EIGHT.

LAST WEEK PRIOR TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS. Panteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. No fees. No charge for booking seats. Doors open at Half-past Two and at Seven.

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, WEDNESDAY NEXT, MARCH 17, the Magnificent and Unrivalled Choir of the MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS, assisted by their famous Orchestra, will give TWO SPECIAL PERFORMANCES OF IRISH MUSIC at ST. JAMES'S HALL.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. Managers, Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain.—(CLOSED.) REOPEN EASTER MONDAY at Three and Eight. CASTLE BOTHERM, by Arthur Law, Music by Hamilton Clarke; followed by ROTTEN ROW, a New Musical Sketch, by Mr. Corney Grain; concluding with THREE FLATS, by Arthur A. Beckett; Music by Edouard Marlois. Twice Easter Monday and Tuesday, at Three and Eight. Admission, 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s. and 5s.

DR. LYNN will return to London and Open his New Hall in Piccadilly on MARCH 27.

MUSICAL UNION.—THE THIRTY-SIXTH AND LAST SERIES of Subscription Matinees. Members Tickets have been issued for TUESDAYS, APRIL 13, 27, MAY 11, 25, JUNE 8, 22, and 29. Any omissions to be notified to the Director. The Names and Addresses of New Members to be sent to Professor ELLA, Victoria-square. Subscription, Two Guineas, with Programmes gratis sent by post.

ROYAL ASYLUM OF ST. ANNE'S SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS, affording Home, Education, Maintenance, and Clothing to Children of Parents who have moved in a Superior Station in Life, Orphans and, of any nation. Four hundred Children are now in the Schools.
J. WATNEY, Esq., M.P. will Preside at the FESTIVAL, on JUNE 16, 1880, at the CANNON-STREET HOTEL. The names of Gentlemen willing to act as Stewards will be gratefully received by the Committee at the Office.
Office, 58, Gracechurch-street, E.C. R. H. EVANS, Secretary.
FUNDS are much needed.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1880.

The imminent Dissolution of Parliament was announced to both Houses on Monday last—very briefly to the Peers by Lord Beaconsfield—more diffusely to the Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The present Session is to be prorogued on Tuesday, the 23rd inst.; Parliament will be dissolved by Royal Proclamation on Wednesday, the 24th; and, immediately after, Writs for the General Election will be issued to the returning Officers. The newly elected Parliament will probably meet about the first week of May, and by that time the momentous controversy on the policy of the present Government will, in substance if not in form, have been decided by the Constituent Bodies of the United Kingdom.

The announcement took both Houses, as well as the country, by surprise. How long the intention of appealing to the country so early as during the Easter holidays may have been in the minds of Ministers we have no trustworthy evidence to show. To the last moment they guarded their secret with the utmost care, laying out their Sessional business as if it was not likely to be interfered with by any abrupt termination, and answering questions in a strain which precluded the presumption that a few days at the utmost would witness the decease of the present Parliament. Sir Stafford Northcote, in making his announcement, intimated that it had been impossible to come to an earlier decision. Inasmuch as it had been

absolutely necessary to obtain Parliamentary sanction to the measures deemed essential for the relief of distress in Ireland. This having been accomplished, there appeared to be no insuperable difficulty in making an appeal to the country whenever public convenience would best admit of a General Election. The Army and the Navy Estimates have been voted; a vote on account of the Civil Service Estimates will be obtained; the Financial Policy and position of the Government was to be placed before the Nation last Thursday evening; and two or three other Measures requisite for the orderly discharge of immediate obligations—such as a continuance Mutiny Bill, a Parliamentary Elections Bill, and certain indispensable Bills of routine—will be passed. The newly elected Parliament will thus have before it sufficient time during its earliest Session to get through a considerable amount of needed legislation, and the interests of Trade and Commerce will be less injuriously disturbed than would have been the case had the Dissolution been postponed to Whitsuntide or to the Autumnal Recess.

At length, then, the critical contest is at hand. The sense of the Country is to be consulted. The Electoral Bodies are about to deliver their verdict upon the policy which in future, or, at any rate, for some few years to come, they desire to be represented by her Majesty's Government. The summons, now that it has been made, seems, like that of death, to be a surprise, as it would have come at whatever moment it might have come. The process to which it points is never agreeable, even when the results anticipated may be satisfactory. The popular excitement and din of a General Election are sure to trouble the usual current of political affairs. But, as it must have come during the present year, most people will prefer that it should have been fixed for an earlier rather than a later period of it. It is desirable to put an end to that condition of uncertainty as to what is the judgment of the country, which has already exerted a baneful influence upon the public mind, in regard both to Foreign Policy and to Domestic Legislation. The people crave to know where they are; to ascertain collectively their own mind, and so to see more clearly than they have done of late the duties and responsibilities growing out of their known position. Whether the policy of the Beaconsfield Administration be substantially that which the Nation sanctions, or of which it disapproves—whether it is to be supported and pushed forward, or condemned and discontinued, as circumstances will allow—whether the peace of Europe, we may say of the World, will be best preserved by following the lines marked out by the present Government—or whether “the unity of feeling which should pervade the United Kingdom and its widespread dependencies” will be strengthened or endangered by leaving the direction of public affairs to our present Rulers—constitutes, undoubtedly, a very large and even a vital question for the decision of the constituencies. Other problems there may be, of immense gravity, asking to be solved; but the question of the moment, and that which reaches furthest into the future, which is to be determined by the general engagement about to take place, is whether the line of political action struck out by Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet in respect of Foreign or Home Affairs, or of their relative importance one to another, shall be indefinitely continued or ultimately abandoned. The noble Earl has published already a political programme in the shape of a letter addressed to the Duke of Marlborough, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is comparatively brief, which is so far an advantage. It is also vague and general in its drift, which perhaps was to have been expected. But it contains phrases which will, no doubt, be largely employed by his supporters in their attempt to place before the Constituent Bodies the political issues involved.

As to the probable issue of the Electoral battle, it would be premature to venture upon any confident prediction. Which of the two great Political Parties will be most disappointed with the summing-up of the returns sent back to the Crown it would be impossible, even if it were desirable, at this moment to pronounce. All that has been foretold, as based upon minute calculation, in regard to the event, must be held of little value. Each party may be as confident of victory as it assumes to be, and yet either Party may be wrong. But to which side soever the predominance of opinion may incline, there is ground for satisfaction in the assurance that the next House of Commons will speak with fuller Constitutional authority than the present one has done. Its spirit will be fresher. Its mind will be clearer. Its self-respect will be less impaired. Its voice will be more potent. Its legislation more progressive. Having touched its Mother Earth, the giant will become more resolute as well as more vigorous. The end most to be feared is such a balance of Parties as would give to a small and compact minority the power of turning the scale at pleasure in every important division. That power, however, as opposed to the general sense of the Nation, while it may be temporarily mischievous, can neither be permanent nor long protracted. In the long run, common sense, right feeling, and the public love of fair play will get the uppermost of Faction, be its tactics ever so astutely planned. At any rate, it is matter for satisfaction that the country is about to pronounce its will, and it only remains for us to pray, “God speed the right!”

THE COURT.

The Queen, with Princess Beatrice, continues at Windsor Castle. Her Majesty, during a two-days' visit of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught last week, entertained at dinner, with their Royal Highnesses and Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold, the Turkish Ambassador and Mdlle. Musurus, the German Ambassador and Countess Marie Münster, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, the Duchess Dowager of Athole, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, the Duke of Northumberland, Viscount Torrington, and Lieutenant-General the Hon. A. Hardinge. The Empress Eugénie also paid a two-days' visit to the Queen. Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold met the Empress at the railway station upon her arrival and accompanied her to the castle. Princess Christian dined with the Queen during the Empress's visit.

The Earl of Beaconsfield had an audience of the Queen yesterday week; and Viscount Cranbrook had also an audience on Saturday, and dined with her Majesty.

Captain Haig arrived at the castle on Sunday, and had an audience of the Queen. Her Majesty, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Rev. William Rogers, M.A., Rector of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, officiated. Princess Christian visited the Queen.

Colonel J. C. McNeill, C.B., V.C., arrived at the castle on Monday as second Equerry in Waiting, and had an audience of her Majesty. He was the bearer of a letter from Princess Louise of Lorne. The report of the state of Princess Louise, dated the 6th inst., received by the Queen, was:—"The Princess came down stairs for the first time to-day. Improvement as satisfactory as could be expected." Her Majesty decorated Gunner John Cantwell, of the Royal Artillery, with the distinguished service medal for gallantry displayed by him at the defence of the hospital at Rorke's Drift. The Queen's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, the Dowager Duchess of Athole, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Viscount Torrington, Lord and Lady Edward P. Clinton, General Sir T. M. Steele, Colonel the Hon. Augustus Liddell, and Colonel J. C. McNeill.

The Empress of Austria, accompanied by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, and attended by Countess Mary Festetics, his Excellency Baron Nopcsa, and Prince Rodolph Leichtenstein, arrived at the castle on Tuesday. Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold met the Empress at the station of the Great Western railway in Windsor and accompanied her Majesty to the castle. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian, who came to pay her respects to the Empress, attended by the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, received her Imperial Majesty at the entrance of the castle. The Empress lunched with the Queen and the Royal family, and afterwards returned to London, Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold accompanying her Majesty to the railway station.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, came to London on Wednesday and held a Levée at Buckingham Palace.

Lord Ronald Gower and Lieutenant-Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Blundell have dined with the Queen.

The Earl of Onslow and Colonel the Hon. C. Lindsay have succeeded Viscount Torrington and Colonel the Hon. Augustus Liddell as Lord and Groom in Waiting.

The present arrangements for the Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, leaving for the Continent are:—Her Majesty, travelling as Countess of Balmoral, and the Princess as Countess Beatrice of Balmoral, will embark on the 25th inst. at Portsmouth, on board the Victoria and Albert yacht, conveyed by the Admiralty yacht Enchantress, the Trinity yacht Galatea, and the Royal yacht tender Alberta, for Cherbourg, whence the journey will be made over the Western Railway to Paris, and thence by the Eastern line to Baden-Baden, where the Queen will sojourn at the Villa Hohenlohe.

Her Majesty's birthday will be kept on Saturday, May 29.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the Household Brigade Steeplechases on Saturday at Sandown Park. Their Royal Highnesses, with Princesses Louise Victoria and Maud of Wales, attended Divine service on Sunday at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Rev. the Sub-Dean, the Rev. J. V. Povah, and the Bishop of Carlisle officiated. The Prince presided on Monday at Marlborough House over a meeting of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1881, at which were present the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Teck. The Empress of Austria visited the Prince and Princess at Marlborough House on Tuesday. Their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, went to Mr. Hallé's orchestral concert at St. James's Hall.

Wednesday was the seventeenth anniversary of the marriage of the Prince and Princess. Their Royal Highnesses celebrated the occasion with a ball at Marlborough House.

The Prince and Princess, accompanied by their daughters, visited the English Cart-Horse Show at Islington. Their Royal Highnesses went to the third concert of the Philharmonic Society at St. James's Hall; and they have also inspected Mr. De Neuville's picture of "The Defence of Rorke's Drift," at the Fine-Art Society, New Bond-street.

The Countess of Macclesfield has succeeded Lady Emily Kingscote as Lady in Waiting to the Princess; and Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke has succeeded Colonel A. Ellis as Equerry in Waiting to the Prince.

Her Majesty's ship Bacchante, Captain Lord Charles Scott, having on board Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales, arrived at St. Thomas's on Sunday last, and was to sail on the following day.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria left Ireland on Sunday evening, travelling from the North Wall in a special North-Western steamer to Holyhead, where her Majesty slept on board, and left at 7.50 on Monday morning by a special train for London. The Prince of Wales met the Empress upon her arrival at Euston station, and accompanied her in his own carriage to Claridge's Hotel, where the Princess of Wales visited her Majesty immediately after her arrival. The Duke of Teck also paid a visit to the Empress; and the Duke, with the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi and Captain and Mrs. Grosvenor, dined with her Majesty. On Tuesday the Empress, during her visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, inspected the stables belonging to Marlborough House. Her Majesty visited the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Buckingham Palace, and, after visiting the Queen at Windsor, paid a visit to the Duchess of Cambridge at St. James's Palace, and also to the Earl and Countess of Dudley in Park-lane. The Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Countess of Dudley called upon the Empress at Claridge's Hotel, and the Earl of Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury had audiences of her Majesty. His Excellency the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi dined with the Empress at Claridge's. Her Majesty on leaving town proceeded to Brussels, en route for Vienna. A large number of distinguished personages inscribed their names in the Empress's visiting-book during her stay in the metropolis.

The Duke of Edinburgh, the president of Charing Cross Hospital, has consented to preside at the festival dinner in aid of the funds of the institution, to be held at Willis's Rooms on Tuesday, May 4.

The Duke of Connaught presided yesterday week over a dinner at the Cannon-street Hotel in aid of the funds of the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum at Collingwood Court, near Bagshot. About 150 ladies and gentlemen assembled at dinner. His Royal Highness announced the subscriptions of the evening to be £2000, the sum having been completed by a donation of £101 from Mr. Thomas Buck. The Queen contributed £100, and the Duke £25. The Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by the Duchess of Teck, went to the Royalty Theatre in the evening. The Duke and Duchess have visited the Fine-Art Society's Galleries.

The Empress Eugénie paid a visit to the Duchess of Cambridge at St. James's Palace on Saturday. Her Majesty gave sittings for portraits at Messrs. Downey's studio.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

A committee has been formed for the purpose of organizing a public protest against the proposal to place a memorial to the late Prince Louis Napoleon in Westminster Abbey.

The dissolution of Parliament seals the fate, for the present at least, of the bill for the purchase of the metropolitan water companies' property, which has met with almost universal disapproval.

The half-yearly fur sales held by the Hudson's Bay Company and by Messrs. C. M. Lampson and Co., which have just terminated, have been the largest that ever took place in London. The furs sold amounted to over £700,000. Prices show an advance of 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

At a meeting of delegates from the metropolitan vestries and district boards, held yesterday week at St. Martin's Vestry-Hall, the committee appointed at the last meeting submitted their report in regard to the Artisans' Dwellings Act, so far as they affect the metropolis.

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association for providing trained nurses for the sick poor was held at Grosvenor House on Thursday afternoon, to receive the fourth annual report, which bore testimony to the great good effected by this excellent institution.

A movement is on foot for a presentation to Mr. George Grove on the occasion of his retirement from the board of the Crystal Palace Company. The list of supporters of the scheme of itself testifies to the wide extent of Mr. Grove's labours, and includes the names of gentlemen distinguished in almost every branch of science, art, and literature.

The *Globe* believes that the arbitrators have fixed £53,311 as the amount to be paid by the Metropolitan Board of Works as compensation to the Wandsworth Bridge Company, with a view to the abolition of the toll on this bridge. The company claimed £70,000, and the Board of Works valuers estimated the value of the bridge undertaking at under £20,000.

The building of the twenty-fifth cabmen's shelter in the metropolis has been begun. It is to be placed in Cromwell-road, South Kensington, about three hundred yards west of Gloucester-road Station of the Underground Railway. The cost of the shelter has been subscribed by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Courtfield-gardens.

Three young men, medical students, were yesterday week charged, at the Marlborough-street Police Court, with refusing to leave the Criterion Restaurant when requested to do so on the previous evening. Evidence was given that on that night these scapegraces, with about one hundred brother-boobies, entered the buffet of the Criterion, and that their conduct was of the most disorderly character. They were fined £5 each.

Mr. Bourke, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, received a deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce last Saturday upon the subject of the revision of the French Tariff. The Under-Secretary said the Government would do all they could to induce the French Government to regard this subject from a liberal point of view; but there were ominous signs that many British goods would not receive such favourable treatment in France as hitherto.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the fourth week in February was 95,800, of whom 48,545 were in workhouses and 47,255 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1879, 1878, and 1877, these figures show an increase of 5862, 9487, and 10,151 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 707, of whom 572 were men, 121 women, and 14 children under sixteen.

An unusually large meeting of the Photographic Society of Great Britain was held at 5, Pall-mall East, on Tuesday evening last. The President, James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., occupied the chair, and a paper was read by the Rev. Henry Lansell, F.R.G.S., on Photographs collected during a Tour round the World, via Siberia and California. The lecturer exhibited his own collection, which included some remarkable portraits of aboriginal tribes on the Lower Amoor. There was also a very fine collection occupying one side of the gallery, lent by Mr. Warnerke, a member of the council, and others by Mr. Henry Seeböhm, the ornithologist and Siberian traveller.

Last week 2777 births and 1607 deaths were registered in London. Allowing for increase of population, the births exceeded by 190, whereas the deaths were 150 below, the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The annual death-rate from all causes, which in the four previous weeks had steadily declined from 48.1 to 23.7 per 1000, further fell to 22.9. The deaths included 8 from smallpox, 17 from measles, 44 from scarlet fever, 5 from diphtheria, 155 from whooping-cough, 14 from different forms of fever, and 14 from diarrhoea. In Greater London 3520 births and 1895 deaths were registered. The mean temperature of the air was 48.5 deg., being 8.1 deg. above the average. The recorded duration of sunshine was equal to 19 per cent of its possible duration.

Mrs. Loyd-Lindsay on Tuesday evening distributed the prizes won during the last year by the Honourable Artillery Company. The report as to the efficiency and marksmanship of the company was satisfactory, and Colonel Loyd-Lindsay took occasion to compliment them on being at the head of the shooting world. Among the principal trophies were:—The Light Cavalry Prize, for swordsmanship (presented by Colonel Loyd-Lindsay), won by Corporal T. P. Priestley; the Hon. Mrs. Loyd-Lindsay's annual prize, Private Robert Parker; the President's prize, Sergeant Thomas Wace; Colonel Loyd-Lindsay's prize, Lieutenant H. Munday; and the Prince of Wales's (Captain-General and Colonel of the regiment) annual prize, Sergeant J. H. Williams. The best shot of the regiment is Private C. E. Lewis.

At a weekly meeting of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society held at its offices, Hibernia-chambers, London-bridge, yesterday week—Captain the Hon. Francis Maude, R.N., in the chair—the

secretary (Mr. E. C. Lean) drew the attention of the committee to the gallant conduct of Captain the Hon. E. R. Fremantle, of the *Invincible*, who during the recent passage of that ship from Alexandria to Aboukir Bay, jumped overboard to the rescue of a man who had fallen from that vessel under circumstances already described. It was proposed by the chairman, seconded by Admiral Sir Claude Buckle, K.C.B., and unanimously carried, that, subject to the approval of the Lords of the Admiralty, the gold medal of the society be presented to Captain Fremantle, and silver medals to Sub-Lieutenant Moor and Blacksmith's Mate Cunningham for their self-devotion on the occasion. Relief amounting to £337 was granted to 58 widows and orphans and 32 shipwrecked men, making a total, so far, in the year, of 3496 widows and orphans and 896 shipwrecked men relieved at an expense of £6175.

The annual meeting of the Royal United Service Institution was held last Saturday in the theatre of the society, Whitehall-yard, when Admiral Sir A. Cooper Key presided. Captain B. Burgess (the secretary) read the council's forty-ninth annual report, which stated that thirty-two life members and 148 annual subscribers had joined during the year, the total number of members at the commencement of 1880 being 4473. The annual subscriptions for the year amounted to £2904, and among the other receipts was the annual Government grant of £600. The library contains 19,170 volumes, of which 420 had been added in 1879. The council expressed their thanks for donations of books and maps from the Governments of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. There had been added to the museum during the year models of Cleopatra's Needle, the vessel in which the obelisk was brought to England, and of the apparatus employed for erecting it, presented by Mr. John Dixon, C.E. Admiral Sir John Hay moved the adoption of the report, and General Lord Chelmsford seconded the motion, and it was carried. It was announced that Captain the Hon. E. R. Fremantle, was the successful competitor for the gold medal given by the institution. Seven essays on the subject selected—"Naval tactics on the open sea with the existing types of vessels and weapons"—had been sent in to the referees. The subject for the military essay for the present year is "Military Operations in the United Kingdom considered, particularly as influenced by the inclosed nature of the country."

THE CRISIS IN RUSSIA.

We present an Illustration of the scene on Tuesday, March 2, the anniversary of the Emperor Alexander II.'s accession, when his Imperial Majesty showed himself on the balcony over the Soltykoff gate of the Winter Palace to the loyal people of St. Petersburg, and bowed in acknowledgment of the cheers with which he was greeted by them. We gave an account of it last week. A fortnight had passed since the detestable attempt of the Nihilist conspirators to kill the Emperor and his family, including the Duchess of Edinburgh, by the explosion of dynamite in the cellar beneath their dining-room. There has been every symptom that could be expected of a general feeling of just indignation at this enormous crime, and an increased disposition to recognise the merits of Alexander II., and his claims to the goodwill of the Russian nation, on account of his past acts of liberality and beneficence. We mean, the emancipation of all the serfs, both those on Crown estates and those in feudal servitude to the nobles and great landowners; the establishment of communal self-government, with the possession of common lands for the use of the peasantry; the reform of the courts of justice, with trial by jury and a regulated scale of punishment for crime; and other great measures of civil and legal improvement. These have been the work mainly of the Emperor himself, by his personal labours and those of the Grand Duke Constantine, his brother, and two or three of his confidential Councillors, during the past twenty-three years. And it is because such acts have been accomplished without Parliamentary debating, by mere official conferences and administrative decrees, that they are not sufficiently remembered or appreciated by public opinion throughout Europe. The readers of Mr. Mackenzie Wallace's excellent book on "Russia," of which Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have just now brought out a second edition, will learn better to estimate the real character of Alexander II. as a ruler. Englishmen will also do well to observe that, by the testimony of Lord Beaconsfield repeatedly given in our Parliament, the Emperor of Russia himself was sincerely averse to the warlike policy upon the Eastern Question which was adopted by his Government in 1877, in compliance with the fanatical enthusiasm that prevailed at Moscow for a crusade to liberate the Slavs and Christian subjects of Turkey. At any rate, whatever may be the sentiments of English or other foreign politicians upon that question, we may be well assured that the Russian nation, which drove the Emperor to pursue that course at enormous expense of human life and public wealth, and at the risk of a second conflict with the European Powers, does not condemn Alexander II., and that the murderous attacks recently made upon him are most repugnant to the feelings of his own people. They are undoubtedly the work of a sect which has much in common with the malignant and insidious faction detected in other Continental States—at Berlin, at Vienna, at Rome, and at Madrid—plotting secret deeds of horror for the purpose, it is supposed, of creating a momentary state of confusion and consternation, and thereupon declaring a Red Republic, with the leaders of their own sect for its dictators. Against these criminal machinations, which are practised in Russia the more easily because there all the care of public order is left to Government officials, and the upper and middle classes of the people are not accustomed to exert themselves in local magistracy, it is now deemed necessary to put in force an extraordinary Dictatorship. The appointment for this purpose of General Loris Melikoff should not, however, be regarded as a token of more despotic inclinations on the part of the Emperor Alexander. We are informed, on the contrary, that the present views of his Government are in an opposite direction. The latest rumour is highly encouraging, if it be well founded, though we do not know what importance can be attached to it. According to one account, General Loris Melikoff has informed the Emperor that the granting of a Constitution would disarm nine tenths of the Nihilists and reduce the rest to powerlessness. Another account states that General Loris Melikoff confers with the Czarévitch daily on the subject of liberal concessions. They are even said to have fixed upon a programme involving, among other things, relative freedom for the vernacular press, restriction of the authority of the police, extension of the prerogatives of the provincial councils, and free expression of opinion. These reforms would be carried out under the supervision of twenty-six commissions, making one for each Government district of Russia. Whether or not such reforms be immediately practicable, there is reason to believe that the Emperor anxiously wishes to do right; and we hope that he will be enabled to bring Russia safely through this difficult crisis of her history, and to restore confidence in her peaceful progress for the future.



THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA BOWING TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE SOLTYKOFF BALCONY OF THE WINTER PALACE.—SEE PAGE 243.

PEOPLE I HAVE MET.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THAT ARTFUL VICAR."

No. IV.—THE RICH WIDOW.

It was over now. The handsome presence, the kind eyes that always smiled on her, the genial voice that never chided, and the strong man's protection, were all gone. They buried him yesterday with all the pomp of woe, and now his widow sits alone with an untasted dinner before her. She seems to be inwardly fighting with her tears, remembering happier days, which appear now to have been all festivals. There is his vacant chair, the chair which he used to draw up beside her when they dined alone. It was never at the head of the table, as it should have been, but always close to hers, that she might "be nearest his heart," he used to say. Every morning when he went out to his duty he used to kiss her and leave a pleasant word glowing behind him, which kept the house warm all day. The children used to watch for him when he came home, and run to see the porter open the great gates and take his sword and sabretache. His sabretache hangs over her head now in her bed-chamber, and his sword is kept bright by the side of his table. Her thoughts are with him morning, noon, and night. His presence fills the house, yet all is silence. No cheerful laugh, no fresh nosegay on her table. All her life passed from light to darkness in a single week. A headache, a few days of typhoid fever, a few brief pangs, and then he died in her arms; while upon his upturned face there shone a look of love which was immortal.

Then came the lawyers—smooth-tongued men, conventionally dressed in mourning, too—and told her she was rich. Of course she was rich. The high-souled gentleman who had been the guide and guardian of her life would not have suffered the very wind to blow upon her roughly. He had left her all he had. Tower and hamlet, field and forest, were all hers—acres upon acres of the best land in England. The tenantry on his estates, which were now hers, had mustered in hundreds when they were married, and had taken the horses from the carriage while the joy-bells rung out on the summer air from the steeple of the church where they read the burial-service over his coffin, and would some day read it over hers, God willing. They had been one in life; they should be one in death. For the present, she had to remember that she was his representative, and held in her keeping the sacred trust of his name and honour. Whatever he had done while he was with her should be done now he was gone. Whatever he had purposed to do must be faithfully tried. She was but the handmaid that he had left behind him in charge of what was his; and she would render him an account of it when she was permitted to see his face again. If such a trust should want all her strength and more to fulfil it, she would ask for help from on high; so that, now her heart had died within her, her soul might live.

She passed a weary time at first, before the world came to understand her. Her sister, who was also a widow, came to see her the day after her husband's funeral. She was a buxom, fresh-coloured dame in the forties, who had married and buried a wealthy brewer with equal satisfaction. She thought that it was good for widows to marry again; and laughingly added that "she meant to set the example, having chosen an Italian Count to help her, after a fashion not unpopular among



THE RICH WIDOW.



My Lady's pheasants and port wine mostly went in that way, as they had done in the late Lord's time. It was he who had first taught her how sublime a thing is charity."

widows of opulent condition. She said that no good can be got even out of money unless one enjoyed it, and she had determined to make the most of hers. She had sold her dull old house in Portman-square; and bought a villa at Naples. She had had her diamonds reset, and had found a pearl in a lady's-maid who could dress her hair as she liked it, which was in the Roman fashion. She had got a telephone in communication with M. Worth. Her box at the Opera was the best on the grand tier. She had set a new fashion in bonnets; and three Royal Dukes with their Royal Duchesses were in the habit of coming to her garden parties, which were the talk of London. It was troublesome for her to wear half mourning just now, because she feared it did not become her. However, her sister must put off her weeds as soon as possible, and then they would amuse themselves together.

She who was a widow indeed let her talk on. What else could be done in such a case? She must receive many such visits, and endure them patiently. She could not let everybody in to see the ruins of her happiness; and relations have often far less sympathy with our innermost sorrows than the merest strangers. One of her husband's kinswomen next felt privileged to break in upon her solitude, and pointed out to her with much unction the beauties of existence under the inspired guidance of the Reverend Boanerges Mawworm. She enlarged upon the pure joys of working vestments for that deserving clergyman, and contributing from her store to the very utmost, in order to propagate the Mawworm doctrine among the benighted aborigines of the South Sea Islands. She seemed to consider it a peculiar blessing to turn up her eyes, and to speak with solemn nasal twang in the reverend gentleman's service. She dressed all in drab, with a coal-seutle bonnet, after his injunctions, and proposed to purchase him the freehold of a chapel out of the savings in her milliner's and dressmaker's bills. She subscribed liberally to the institutions which he patronised, and in this manner became adventurously and otherwise connected with "The Home for the Middle-Aged Bald" and "The Little Children's Unmixed Toffy Asylum," which she praised with extreme fervour. She carried about tracts; and after she was gone her gentle hostess found one of them pinned on her drawing-room curtains. It was entitled, "Won't you take something short?" and belonged to the hot and strong sort of denunciation which is nowadays addressed to the people in the language with which they are supposed to be most familiar.

Then came the widow of a pious judge, whose dower had in some way gone wrong, and who abused her deceased husband roundly for not making a clearer will. "My dear," she said in the hero's home, where no ignoble thought had ever entered, "I hope you have found your settlements all right. I ought to have had nine thousand a year, and I have only six. That stupid man of mine was always putting codicils to his will; and you would hardly believe it, the last will I insisted on his making the day before he died wasn't ready for his signature, so one of his nephews has got some money that belongs to me. My husband ought to be ashamed of himself in his grave; and would I am sure if he knew it. The next time I marry I will have all the money settled on me beforehand. Mind you do the same, my dear. I have got an excellent solicitor who knows all about it, and who will take care you do not lose a sixpence. When I marry, as I mean to do after the usual time is up, I shall have everything secured for my sole and separate use, down to the things in the larder and the bottled ale. It is a pity there are not public trustees to protect us poor women. But I have just bought a life annuity from the City of Manchester, so that my husband won't be able to get hold of much of my money beyond what I may choose to give him. Sell your estates, my dear, before the land panic gets worse, and put the money to the best use you can, as I have done. I will introduce you to Messrs. Ponder and Grip, my men of business, who will show you how to do it. When they have put your fortune quite right, marry again, as I shall. It is all nonsense about widows being free and easy. They are not free at all, and can only receive lawyers, doctors, and parsons without scandal. Even those must be non-conductors and old men. The lawyer who always attends to me has a face like parchment; I feel obliged to have Sir Senex Parr for my physician; and no clergyman is ever let into my house but the Dean of Dole, who is a married man with twelve children.

At last the worldly and the flippant, the selfish and the mean, left off tormenting her, and gave place to more congenial friends. Lord Courtly's widow was among them. She had married again, and sometimes related her performances under those conditions, with a humour half comic, half sad. She had chosen a Captain of dragoons at thirty-five, and soon had occasion to mark the contrast between her old love and the new. Her first husband, who was older than she had been, was all politeness, attention, and refinement. Her nod was law to him, her smile enchantment. He was never tired of saying pretty things to her. Her second husband, who was her junior by six months, was all bad behaviour and selfishness. He nearly drove her mad with jealousy. In Lord Courtly's time she had been noted for her calm and stately dignity of manner. It seemed as though nothing could ever ruffle her serene and equal temper. She was calm and cold as snow. The dragoon made her as restless as a wild cat; and one of her old friends was startled to meet her near Westminster Bridge on a stormy midnight when the bitter east wind blew a hurricane. She was quite alone, and her poor face was pale as ashes. She was watching a house where she had seen her husband enter, poor lady! Fortunately, the Captain broke his neck while hunting, before she had been tortured much longer, and she was now cured of matrimony. There was Lady Heigho, too, who had tried to marry again, and failed because her mind was full of romantic notions, and she had determined to be loved for herself alone at fifty-five. Then this happened. She feigned to be ruined. So a very honest gentleman, who would have made her a comfortable husband, withdrew for prudential considerations, and married somebody else. She was bitterly disappointed, but took comfort afterwards, and became a more reasonable woman, wearing her weeds meekly thenceforth.

Meantime she, the gracious lady with whom this record is concerned, went on her straight path and her narrow way, being fancy free, and harbouring neither thoughts nor dreams of a second marriage. Her hair became white as silver within a year of her husband's death, and she always dressed in deep mourning for his sake, though she was not morose, or even gloomy, after awhile. It was noticed by those who knew her best that all her opinions seemed to be formed, and were immutable. Her mental progress had stopped, perhaps, and the tomb had closed over it. She could never more listen to advice. Her politics, her social creed, were precisely those of her husband. She would have considered it a sacrilege to change them in any respect. Being a large landowner, she felt a sense of part proprietorship in the county members as being in a manner responsible for her vote and interest, which were of great weight in a contested election. She entertained the Lord Lieutenant when he passed through her property, and the Judges when they came on Circuit, bringing out choice recipes in cookery on such occasions, and holding up the traditional hospitalities of her castle.

If any desire to go beyond this, and care to learn how a

life was passed that looked for ever heavenward, they can but give the rein to fancy. Very little was heard or known of her, though she lived to a great age. Her children all grew up to be brave, honest men, and fair, delightful women. They gathered round her upon holidays and festivals, making the ancestral home where she lived in state resound with merry words and hearty laughter. All dependent on her seemed to thrive and prosper. Her farms were well tilled; her servants contented. She went abroad in her old-fashioned equipage, drawn by four white horses, with four mounted grooms in attendance, to open the gates on cross roads, and to clear the way of blundering waggons and erratic market carts; and no sooner had gaffer Tom Bobbin, or honest Will Saddler, who were her outriders, appeared on their steady nags at any village comprised in her estate than the children began to cheer. The smith and the wheelwright stopped at their work, and the miller's wife, with her gossips, came out to their thresholds, each ready with smile and curtsy for the lady of the Manor. "God bless her!" said the Vicar to his Curate, as they did their parish work side by side, and raised their hats to the great lady. "A Trump, by Jingo!" cried the Doctor, as he met her in his gig with the fast-trotting bay mare, for the Doctor was a radical and of an irreverent turn of mind; but he knew that the grand equipage would first stop at the almshouses and then at the hospital, and was carrying that which is better than drugs for the poor and the sick, whose chief ailment is want. My Lady's pheasants and port wine mostly went that way, as they had done in the late Lord's time. It was he who had first taught her how sublime a thing is charity, and she had got the lesson long ago by heart. It might have seemed to those around her as though her good deeds ended there, but many far away could have told a different story. Poet and artist, soldier and priest, all the aged and the helpless of whom she knew, whosever was in necessity or tribulation felt her silent bounty, seldom knowing whence it came. Thus, at last, there grew about her a kind of sanctity, which became more resplendent and far shining with years; while that virtue and goodness which at first appeared but as a beacon on a mountain or an ensign on a hill, gleamed high over the stormy sea of life, bright as the loadstar.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

In the Senate on Thursday week the debate on article 7 of M. Jules Ferry's Education Bill began. Among the speakers were M. Berenger, of the Left Centre, M. Foucher de Careil, M. Buffet, and M. Jules Simon.

The debate was resumed yesterday week in a crowded House. M. Bertauld spoke strongly in favour of the measure, contending that the Jesuits had no legal right of existence and ought to be excluded from the rights and privileges of French citizens. Much confusion was caused by interruption from the opponents of the bill. M. de Gavardie, after shaking his fist at M. Bertauld and being called to order, continued to speak in very violent terms, and the President for some time was unable to restore order. M. Jules Ferry subsequently spoke in support of the measure, which he maintained was based on principles of public policy. He said that the Jesuits were in permanent conspiracy against the State, and that their position in France had always been illegal.

On Saturday the Chamber being again crowded, M. Ferry continued the speech he had begun on the previous day, condemned the education given by the Jesuits, and gave quotations from several books the teaching of which he regarded as dangerous and hostile to the established institutions of the country. M. Ferry was frequently interrupted, as was M. Jules Simon, who followed on the other side. He said that from the outset he had intended to oppose article 7 of the bill, but now it had become a question of defending the principle of liberty. The time had come for the country to know whether freedom was to continue to prevail in France or not.

The debate on the seventh clause was resumed on Monday by M. Jules Simon, who spoke for two hours against the clause. He was much applauded by the Right, while the Left preserved an apparently preconcerted silence. M. Simon contended that the law proposed by the Government was both useless and impolitic, and reminded the House of the answer given by Henry IV. to the University professors who complained of the success of the Jesuits—namely, "Make your schools better than theirs, and the pupils will come back to you." M. Simon concluded by saying it was by means of liberty that the Catholic Church must be combated. M. Roujat spoke in favour of the clause.

On Tuesday the debate was resumed. M. de Freycinet defended clause 7, and maintained that it in no way violated liberty. M. Dufaure opposed the clause, and declared that the measure was an arm against religion, and had been brought forward without any serious reason. On a division, the clause was rejected by 148 against 129 votes.

Three deputies have been raised to the Senate. M. Albert Grévy, the President's brother and Governor of Algeria, was on Saturday elected to the life seat vacant by the death of M. Crémieux. M. de Fourtou, Minister of the Interior in 1877, was on Sunday elected senator for Dordogne by 363 votes, in the place of the late M. Magne, who, in 1876, received 470 votes; M. de Bosredon, on a second ballot, being elected the successor of the late M. Dupont. M. de Fourtou was strenuously opposed by the Bonapartist leaders, but his local influence prevailed over all opposition. The two deceased senators were Bonapartists.

M. Hartmann, or whatever his name may prove to be, who was arrested a fortnight ago by the French police on suspicion of having been concerned in the attempt of Dec. 2 to blow up the train by which the Emperor of Russia was travelling, and whose case has been a subject of hot contention between French political parties ever since, has been set at liberty on the report of the Minister of Justice, and is said to have sought a fresh asylum in this country.

At a meeting held at the British Embassy in Paris on Monday, under the presidency of Lord Lyons, it was resolved to present a testimonial to the Rev. Edward Forbes, D.D., of the English church in the Rue d'Aguesseau, on his appointment to a London living, in recognition of his faithfulness and zeal during the last twenty-one years.

The French Water-Colour Society has opened its second exhibition, which comprises 114 pictures by Baron de Beaumont, Detaille, Doré, François, Heilbuth, Isabey, Jacquemard, Jacquet, Jourdain, Lambert, Lami, Maurice and Louis Leloir, Madame Lemaire, Madame de Rothschild, Bibert, and Worms. The *Times*' correspondent at Paris says that, with few exceptions, they are all deserving of attention, but prominence must be given to Detaille and Heilbuth, both of whom contribute masterpieces in their respective styles.

A statue of Gerson, by M. Bailly, has been erected in the Church of St. Paul at Lyons, whither he retired from Paris to join his brother, Prior of the Celestins. Gerson's tomb was destroyed in the troubles of 1793.

At an early hour on Saturday morning a further number of amnestied Communists arrived in Paris, and were met at the Mont Parnasse station by an immense concourse of persons.

SPAIN.

On the 5th inst. in the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Minister of Marine proposed to fix the strength of the navy for 1880-1 at thirteen frigates, seven steam-vessels, nine gun-boats, seven cruisers, and nine transport and other vessels. The fleet would be manned by 5000 sailors and 4000 marine infantry.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Senate, Marshal Martinez Campos declared himself to be the adversary of Señor Canovas del Castillo, adding that he was anxious to promote the unity of the Liberal party. The Premier replied that he himself was no adversary of Marshal Martinez Campos, since they had both great interests to defend in common. He proceeded to state that the deficit of £4,000,000 in the Cuban Budget prevented any reductions of taxation in Cuba. The Government, he said, were in no way responsible for the present state of things in Cuba. Señor del Castillo, in conclusion, expressed his belief that General Blanco, Captain-General of Cuba, was perfectly capable of governing the island.

ITALY.

Signor Cairoli, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated in the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday last that he would be prepared to answer an interpellation by Signor Diblasio respecting the foreign policy of the Government during the discussion of the foreign affairs estimates.

Yesterday week, and on Saturday last, the death of St. Thomas Aquinas was commemorated in Rome. In the Sala Ducale, in the Vatican, the Pope gave an address to a crowded audience, by which he was received with much enthusiasm.

One of the 100-ton guns on board the Duilio burst during the firing practice last Saturday morning, and the inner steel bore was shattered. Two officers and seven men were wounded, but nobody was killed. The turret was slightly damaged, but no damage was done to the machinery, or any other part of the vessel. Twenty-eight rounds had been fired from the gun before the accident occurred. A committee has assembled on board the ship to investigate the causes of this accident, which they consider should not be allowed to destroy the credit of the gun nor the system on which it was built. Practice with the other guns has not been suspended.

BELGIUM.

The betrothal of the Princess Stéphanie Clotilde to the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria was announced on Sunday at a déjeuner of the Royal family at the palace of Laeken.

In Monday's sitting of the Senate the Minister for Foreign Affairs made an official announcement in the King's name to the same effect.

The King and Queen, with the Archduke Rudolf and Princess Stéphanie, were at the opera at Brussels on Monday night, the first appearance in public of the Princess. The Royal visitors met with an enthusiastic reception, and Brussels presents quite a festive appearance. The Archduke will stay some days, and the Empress is expected on her way home from Ireland.

GERMANY.

The *North German Gazette* of Saturday gives an unqualified contradiction to a report which appeared in the newspapers that when the Emperor visited Prince Bismarck last week the Prince was confined to his bed. The Imperial Chancellor, the *Gazette* says, was at the time suffering from a severe cold, and was consequently forbidden by his physician to leave his room, but he was not compelled to keep to his bed for a single day. A Berlin telegram in the *Morning Post* says that on Saturday last Prince Bismarck was able to go as far as the Emperor's palace, where he made his report to the Emperor on matters of State.

Prince Bismarck gave a Parliamentary dinner to about thirty members on Monday. A *Daily News* telegram says that the Chancellor spoke rather warmly on the Hartmann question, and said that in his opinion the French Republic had solved this delicate question in the right way. He thinks that the affair might have ended seriously for the French Ministry had they not acted as they have. In his opinion it would have been a great mistake to have given up Hartmann.

In the German Parliament on Saturday last there was a debate on the proposed prolongation of the Socialist law. The bill was ultimately referred to a Committee of fourteen members.

The Geographical Society of Berlin has invited Professor Nordenskjöld to pay it a visit, and the Professor has consented to come in the course of the summer.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Archduke Rudolph, Crown Prince of Austria, has been affianced to the Princess Stéphanie Clotilde of Belgium. The announcement was made at a diplomatic dinner given at Vienna on Monday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron von Haymerle, who proposed the health of the betrothed pair.

Both Houses of the Austrian Reichsrath on Tuesday resolved to send congratulatory addresses to the Emperor and Crown Prince on the occasion of the latter's betrothal. The Vienna Common Council also adopted with enthusiasm a proposal to send a deputation to the Emperor and Empress congratulating them upon the betrothal of the Crown Prince. It was also decided to send a congratulatory letter to the Crown Prince.

By a large majority, the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet on Saturday last adopted the Budget in its present form as a basis for the special discussion of its separate articles. A motion of want of confidence in the Ministry was rejected by 222 against 174.

GREECE.

The debate on the Budget was continued on Monday in the Chamber of Deputies. M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council, spoke in defence of the financial policy of the Government, although at the same time stating his readiness to accept any measures of economy which might be proposed by the Chamber, provided that he was convinced that they would be advantageous to the country. The Premier added that, should the Chamber withdraw its confidence from the Government, he should closely watch the programme adopted by M. Tricoupis, which he believed to be impracticable.

A telegram from Vienna states that Greece has formally declined the last Turkish propositions respecting the frontiers.

TURKEY.

Sir Henry Layard has informed the Porte that the Great Powers have resolved to appoint an International Commission to discuss the points in dispute between Turkey and Greece, on the basis of the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin. The decisions of the Commission will be taken according to the majority of votes, and the new line of frontier determined upon will be communicated by the Powers collectively to the Turkish and Hellenic Governments. A *Standard* telegram from Constantinople states that the Greek Government has declined to accept the last proposals of the Porte relating to the renewal of direct negotiations between the two countries.

Reductions to the extent of nearly thirty per cent in the Estimates of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were agreed to at the Council of Ministers at Constantinople on Monday. Other retrenchments have also been decided upon, including a reduction in the amount paid for officers' rations.

The Sultan has ratified the proposed Turko-Montenegrin frontier line. The new boundary leaves to Turkey the eastern half of the plain of Podgoritz as far as Poula on the Lake of Scutari.

AMERICA.

M. de Lesseps, accompanied by Mr. Evarts, the Secretary of State, paid a visit of an hour's duration last Saturday to President Hayes, to whom he explained the advantages of his Panama Canal scheme, and pointed out that it was not contemplated to place it under foreign control, nor would it under any circumstances interfere with the interests of the United States. M. de Lesseps stated that he wished that most of the canal stock might be taken up in the States, which would, he declared, be a guarantee against foreign influences. President Hayes, in reply, said he was glad to learn that M. de Lesseps did not intend that any political objects should enter into his work. The interview was informal.

President Hayes sent a special message to Congress on Monday thoroughly reaffirming the Monroe doctrine, and stating that American policy is a canal under American control. The United States, he says, cannot consent to surrender this control to any European Power or convention of European Powers.

The House of Representatives Select Committee upon the proposed Panama Inter-oceanic Canal have unanimously resolved to report the scheme to the House, with the recommendation that a joint resolution be passed by Congress emphatically reasserting the Monroe doctrine, and declaring that it is the right, as it is the interest, of the United States to possess the direction, control, and government of any means of communication through the Isthmus. The Committee propose that the joint resolution should further declare that the United States would regard and treat as dangerous to their peace, prosperity, and safety, any attempt on the part of any European Power to establish a protectorate over any independent States on this Continent.

M. de Lesseps attended a meeting on Monday of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives on the Panama Canal scheme, concerning which he gave detailed explanations. M. de Lesseps was closely interrogated by the members of the Committee.

Telegrams state that the delegates sent by the Indiana Republicans to the Chicago Convention are instructed to oppose General Grant's election as Republican candidate for the Presidency. The National Greenback Labour Convention of St. Louis have nominated Mr. Stephen B. Dillaye, of New Hampshire, as their candidate for the Presidency, and Mr. B. J. Chamber, of Texas, for the Vice-Presidency. The Governor of Virginia has signified his disapproval of the Debt Readjusters Bill recently passed by the Virginia Senate for reducing the amount of the State debt.

Governor Holliday has vetoed the bill passed by the Virginia Legislature partially repudiating the Virginian debt. His veto is based on the ground of the bill repudiating provisions which, in his opinion, cannot be repudiated without violating the Constitution of the United States and the traditional spirit of Virginia—a spirit which has endeared the name of the State to her people and made it honoured among men. The Virginia Senate has, by 19 to 16, sustained the Governor's veto of the Debt Refunding Bill enacting partial repudiation. The Bill is thus defeated.

The Supreme Court has decided that the Federal Election Laws are constitutional.

Military precautions continue to be taken at San Francisco for the preservation of public order. Large numbers of Chinamen are leaving for the Eastern States. The United States Government have ordered troops to proceed to San Francisco.

CANADA.

It is officially announced that the improvement in the condition of Princess Louise is as satisfactory as could be expected.

The Dominion House of Commons has passed a resolution, previously adopted by the Senate, congratulating the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise on their recent escape while driving in a sleigh. The Premier, Sir Alexander Macdonald, said it was only by God's providence that the accident did not end fatally for the Princess. Her injuries were great, and her life was for a time endangered, but he believed her recovery now would be speedy.

The Bishop of Montreal requested the clergy in his diocese to offer up thanksgivings in their churches on Sunday, March 7, for the preservation of the Marquis and Princess Louise from the serious consequences which might have arisen from the accident.

The Marquis of Lorne attended the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association last week, and in a speech given on the occasion said that the best efforts of the association should be directed to strengthening the connection between the volunteers of Canada and England.

Sir S. L. Tilley, the Finance Minister, brought forward the Budget on Tuesday in the Dominion House of Commons. He stated in his speech that the receipts for the past year had been 24,450,000 dol., and the expenditure 23,869,262 dol., and announced that he estimated the receipts for the next financial year at 25,517,000 dol., and the expenditure at 25,007,203 dol. The Government proposed to increase the issue of Dominion notes from twelve to twenty million dollars. The Minister defended the protective policy of the Government, as producing unprecedented benefits for the country, and announced that several changes would be proposed in the tariff, with a view to facilitate its working.

The Dominion House of Commons has voted by 140 to 20 votes the second reading of a bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Mr. Blake's bill for the adoption of measures for the more effectual prevention of crime has been defeated.

The Ontario Legislative Assembly has been prorogued.

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly have unanimously agreed to the motion of the Provincial Secretary to memorialise the Dominion Government for a share of the fishery award for Nova Scotia.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature was opened on the 4th inst. A bill for the abolition of the Legislative Council will be submitted to the Legislature during the present session.

Mr. Parnell arrived at Montreal on Monday evening, and was received by a torchlight procession formed by 5000 Irishmen, some of whom unharnessed the horses from his sleigh and drew it to the hotel. Mr. Parnell declared his reception to be the warmest since he had left Ireland.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A telegram of Cape news to Feb. 17, received by way of Madeira, says that at a meeting of Boer party leaders, recently held at Heidelberg, Mr. Paul Kruger gave a speech of a very pacific character, in which he proposed that the Boer committee, when meeting at Potchefstroom on March 8, to consider the course to be pursued in reference to the arrest of Messrs. Bok and Pretorius, should also discuss the means of establishing friendly relations with the British Government.

INDIA.

The situation in Afghanistan, the *Times* correspondents

state in their weekly telegrams, has not materially changed, and the resumption of hostilities when the favourable weather arrives is becoming increasingly probable. The occupation of Sherpore, having served its purpose of sheltering our troops during the inclement season, will probably not be prolonged beyond this month, and the majority of the troops will probably encamp upon the Siah Sang, the reserve stores being gradually removed from Sherpore into the Bala Hissar. The Lahore correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs that if the arrangement for a peaceable settlement of Afghanistan fail, the spring campaign will include a flying column to Charikar. At the end of March a force from Khoorum will march through Zurmunt to Ghuznee, co-operating with a strong column from Candahar, General Roberts moving in a south-westerly direction, and blocking the Ghuznee road towards Turkestan. The Logar and Khoorum forces, it is stated, are now deficient in transport.

A Calcutta telegram in the *Times* states that it is reported that the Burmese have made a raid on Muni-pore territory and killed forty-five natives.

CHINA.

We learn from Shanghai that Chung-How, the Ambassador to Russia, has been impeached for returning to China without the Imperial permission. It is urged that he should be punished with death for concluding arrangements disadvantageous to China, and it is thought probable that the Kuldja Treaty will be repudiated by the Government.

The Loochoo difficulty between China and Japan continues unsettled. It is expected that foreign mediation in the matter will be accepted.

The following despatch by the Eastern Telegraph Cable has been received by the *New York Herald* at its London office:—"Hong-Kong, China, March 5. China is making heavy war preparations and purchasing arms extensively. The Russian complication is the chief cause, but a defiant attitude is shown in a less degree towards foreign Powers generally."

AUSTRALIA.

By a telegram from Melbourne, dated March 4, received through Reuter's agency, we learn that the Victorian Ministry having resigned, a new Cabinet has been formed, as follows:—Colonial Treasurer, Mr. James Service; Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Instruction, Mr. Robert Ramsay; Attorney-General, Mr. George Kerferd; Minister of Lands, the Hon. J. G. Duffy; Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Trade and Customs, Mr. Henry Cuthbert; Commissioner of Railways and Roads, Mr. Duncan Gillies; Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Thomas Bent; Minister of Mines, Mr. Clark.

The Agent-General for New South Wales has been informed by telegram of the arrival in Sydney of the ship *Norval*, which sailed from Plymouth with emigrants in December last.

Mr. Robert Ripon Marett, Attorney-General for Jersey, has been appointed Bailiff of the island.

The English pilgrimage to Lourdes, headed by Cardinal Manning, will leave London on May 31.

Five hundred Turkish troops are stated to have been dispatched to effect the release of Colonel Syngé.

Lloyd's agent at Valparaiso telegraphs, under date of March 8, that the Knight Templar, from Liverpool for Arica, was captured whilst attempting to run the blockade.

The English residents at Bucharest gave a dinner on Sunday in honour of Mr. White, the British Minister Plenipotentiary to Roumania.

An international dog show is announced to be held at Haarlem from June 26 to June 28. About the same time there will be a flower show, chiefly of tulips and hyacinths, on the grandest scale ever attempted since 1877.

The Peninsular and Oriental Company's mail-steamer *Travancore*, during a thick fog on the morning of Monday, went ashore at Castro Bright, south of Otranto. The passengers and mails arrived at Brindisi on Tuesday.

Owing to the accumulation of the ice on the Vistula, floods have occurred in thirty villages, some of which have been completely destroyed. Thousands of persons are said to be without shelter or food.

The Australian handbook for 1880 has been issued by Messrs. Gordon and Gotch, of St. Bride-street, Ludgate-circus. It contains a mass of useful information, and is certainly one of the most useful books of its kind, being not only a guide to those desirous of acquiring a knowledge of our various colonies and dependencies, but affording the most valuable information to the shippers and importers.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contains the following announcements:—The Queen has been pleased to appoint John Broadhurst and Isaac Benjamin Pratt to be members of the Legislative Council of her Majesty's Settlement of Sierra Leone; William Kirkwood, M.D., Robert Butler, and William M. G. Maclure, M.D., to be members of the Legislative Council of the Bahama Islands; William W. Streeten, late Queen's Advocate of the West Africa Settlements, to be the Chief Justice of those settlements.

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society last week it was announced that the actual loss on the Kilburn Exhibition last year was £15,064. It was unanimously resolved to hold next year's show at Derby.

A Parliamentary return has been issued giving the amounts paid in respect of the grant of 1s. for singing for the year ended Aug. 31, 1879. By this it appears that there was paid to 15,477 schools connected with the National Society or Church of England the sum of £70,662. To 1951 British and undenominational schools was paid the sum of £11,925. The Wesleyan schools, 835 in number, earned £6034; 1235 Roman Catholic schools earned £6809; and 5203 School Board schools earned £33,248.

The liquidators of the City of Glasgow Bank on Wednesday announced their intention of paying shortly to the creditors of the bank a further dividend of 1s. in the pound, making a total of 16s. in the pound. Two thirds of the depositors of the City of Glasgow Bank have settled at twenty shillings in the pound without interest, and three fourths of the claims by billholders have been settled in a similar manner. The number of creditors was originally 14,000, it is now 2100.—The shareholders of the West of England and South Wales District Bank have received formal notification from the official liquidators of a second call. The liquidators intimate that they will apply to the Vice-Chancellor for power to make a further call of £4 per share, payable on or about April 7. This will make the total sum called up £14 per share, and it is hoped no further call will be necessary through the revival of trade increasing the value of the assets. In a circular letter on Monday the liquidators announce that the arrangement to pay the creditors the balance at once, upon their waving all claim for interest, will save nearly £50,000; and they hope to be able to return the shareholders nearly all the present call of £4. They have hitherto received from shareholders in calls £386,000. The liquidation expenses have up till now been £24,500.

THE MONTHS: MARCH.

Throughout the stormy month we have now entered we seem constantly on the threshold of spring, and as often lapsing again into winter. One day the earth smiles greenly, and the blue sky and welcome sunshine set us thinking of country lanes, of ox-lips and nodding violets, and of the banks where the wild thyme blows. But on the next our hopes are rudely dashed aside. We look up in vain for a patch of blue in the heavens, and, pulling our overcoats about our ears, try to shut out if possible the howling blasts of wind—"the tyrannous breathing of the North" that

Checks all our buds from blowing.

"March in his wakening strength" soon learns the trick of wooing us with the blandest of smiles, but he has also a terrible habit of letting loose the four winds of heaven upon our devoted island. And when once the spirit of the storming gets abroad, there is no stopping him. Everywhere *Æolus* reigns supreme, a perfect despot, on the ocean, in the country, in our cities. What with the crash of shattered chimneys, the scattering of crazy tiles and gables, and the "bushels of dust"—enough to ransom ten thousand monarchs—March is not particularly welcome in our large towns, more especially as he has an unpleasant way of finding out the weak points of frail humanity by reminding us that flesh is heir to such trifles as rheumatism, asthma, and catarrhs. Still, rough and uncourteous though he be, he has a rugged grandeur about him that is at once solemn and sublime. See him lash the ocean into maddest fury, and then admit that nothing on earth can equal the winds of March for majesty and power; or if you have not stomach for the briny deep, go to any of our rock-bound coasts, and watch the rolling, foaming billows break upon the shore, and dash headlong over pier-heads, rocks, lighthouses, and whatever else stems, or attempts to stem, their fury. Or, go into the woods and listen to the roar of the March winds as they sweep through glade and forest, bending the sturdy trees till they look like so many Titans' bows, whirling the dry quivering leaves about everywhere, tearing down little branches and lusty limbs, and here and there rending some aged oak to its very roots. The roar is grand in the extreme, like the sound of a tempestuous sea, yet there is a certain pathos in the scene around us, as we look upon those poor naked trees. It seems "the most unkindest cut of all," these terrible March winds, after all the shivering trees have had to endure through the long pitiless cold of winter.

But the winds of March—spite of their seeming cruelty to shrubs and trees, and their tendency, as Shakespeare beautifully expresses it, to "check all our buds from blowing"—are as necessary to the soil as the sunshine of summer. They act as a counterpoise to the wetness of the preceding month, and, by drying up the superabundant moisture, prevent the roots and seeds from rotting. Moreover, as "Winter is still lingering on the verge of Spring," they exercise a salutary check on vegetation, which else would burst forth into life only to be injured, or killed outright, by the unsettled state of the weather.

As soon as the career winds have rendered the soil sufficiently friable for the plough, the farming operations of the year begin in earnest. Barley and oats are generally sown towards the end of the month. But perhaps the most interesting feature on the farm just now is the sporting of the young lambs, most of which are weaned in March. On one of those mild days when the spirit of the storm-king is hushed and the fresh green meadows are bathed in sunshine, what prettier spectacle is there than the antics and gambols of the frolicsome little creatures! How thoroughly they seem to enjoy their young life, how supremely satisfied with this mortal coil, how utterly unconscious, pretty innocents, of the green peas that will soon be on the table of the gourmand, and how unsuspecting of foxes, kites, and lurking crows! However, happily for them, birds of prey, at least, have become somewhat rare in England.

There is great commotion now in the rookeries, whose busy denizens, with noisy caw and considerable pilfering, are foraging in all directions for material to repair their nests. But except the cawing of the rooks and the infinitely sweeter music of the thrush, whose mellow notes are heard all through the month, the bird-world is still comparatively quiet. Most of our winter birds of passage, notably the woodcock and the fieldfare, leave us in March for their homes in Norway and the Far North.

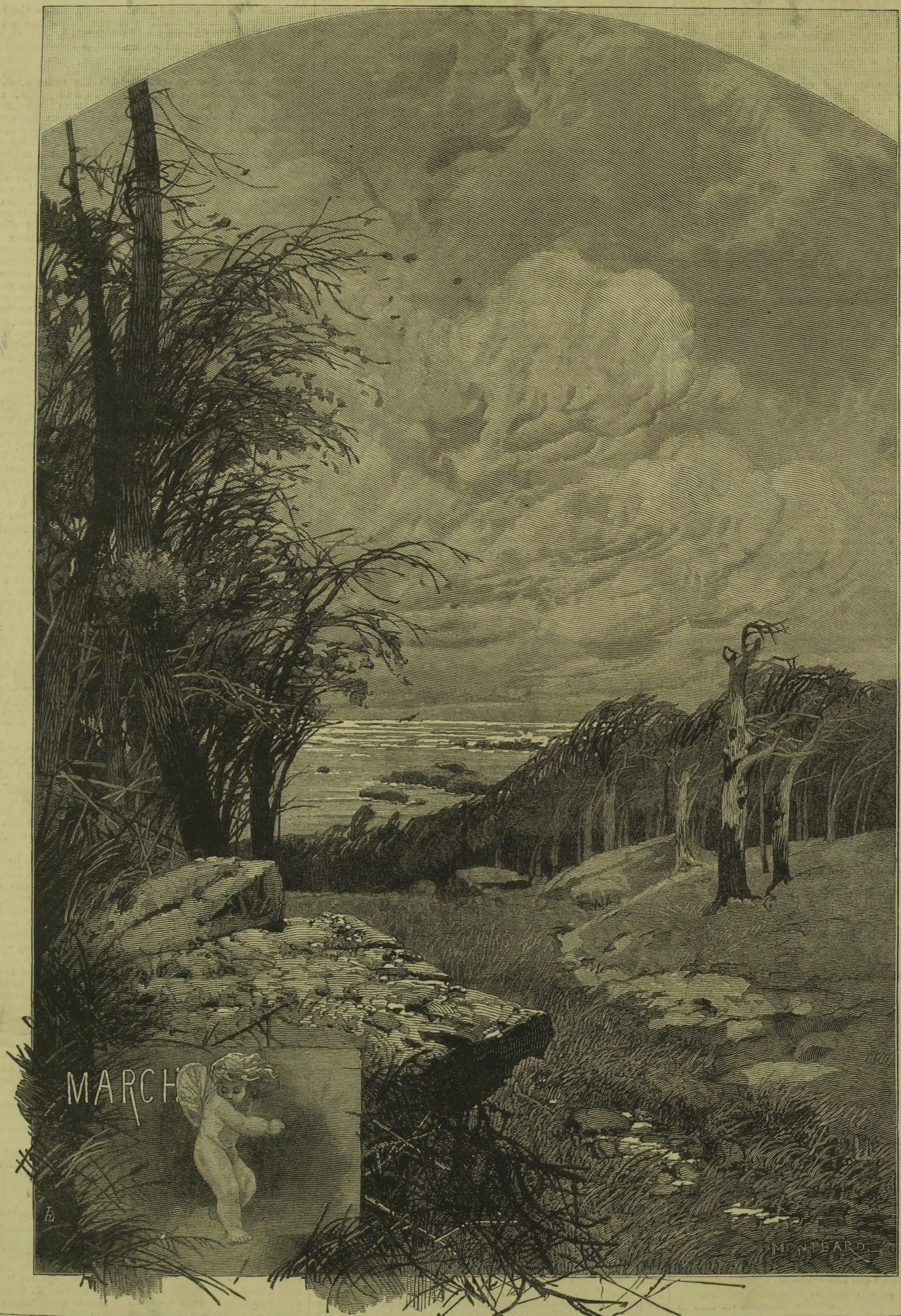
Those uninteresting creatures the hibernators, bats, frogs, and vipers, are now beginning to wake up from their winter sleep, owing, perhaps, to a change having come o'er the spirit of their dream by the familiar buzz of some unwary insect close at hand. For the insect-world is likewise bursting forth into existence. Bees venture out from their hives towards the close of the month, taught by unerring instinct that some of the sweet spring flowers are emerging, with much blinking and shivering, from their long slumbers.

Foremost among the adventurous wildlings of the month are the violets, that, "gleaming like amethysts in the dewy moss," fill the air of our woods and grassy lane-sides with their delicious perfume. In sheltered places, in the shade of some secluded grove or mossy bank, the primrose may be found unfolding its pale yellow petals; but this darling of the spring does not bloom in its full glory or in great abundance until after the sun has crossed the line, and belongs rather to April and May than the month we are discussing—such favourite spots as the Isle of Wight excepted. The ivy-leaved veronica, with its tiny blue flowers, may be seen nestling under the hedges; and in wet meadows or on the margin of some babbling brook, we are sure to find the common butterbur. Nor must we quite ignore the "wee crimson tipped flower" that Burns loved so well. However, as yet but few of our wildlings have the heart to show themselves; and we must content ourselves with the springing verdure of the meadows and daffodils—

Which come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty—

and violets—"sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes, or Cytherea's breath." The bright crocuses and daffodils adorning our gardens are only occasionally found wild.

Fox-hunting is now nearly over, but the stag still affords good sport for the more inveterate lovers of the chase; at considerable risks, however, to the horses' legs and the riders' necks, owing to the hardness of the ground. In former days otter-hunting was an amusement much indulged in during March; but of late years, except in some of the midland counties, the amphibious quadruped has been less sought after. The racing season begins this month, being confined, for the most part, to steeplechases: a dangerous time for a dangerous sport, though the jockeys seem not to think it so, as, flaunting their gay colours in the wind, they fly over ditch and hurdle, mad as the hares that are now said to take leave of their senses—and no wonder, poor little things! for at last they are free to roam whither they please without let or hindrance.





IRISH SKETCHES: A FISHERMAN'S CABIN IN CONNEMARA.—SEE PAGE 250.

TALK OF THE WEEK.

The sudden news of the dissolution of Parliament took everybody, even the Knowalls, by surprise. So well kept was the secret that not even the confidential servants in the public service knew a word about it. The omniscient private secretaries were at fault, and on all sides it is conceded that the political *coup d'état* was complete. But two sections of the public, and they are very important ones, resent the precipitancy of the Ministerial movement, and they may be briefly summed up as the commercial world anxious to make money out of Mr. Cross's new Water Bill, and the holiday world which will have to put up with the loss of the Easter Monday Review at Brighton. All had been admirably arranged, the organisation was sound down to the smallest detail. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar had promised to command, all the hotels and outhouses on the line of march had been engaged, the volunteers, proud of the trust imposed upon them, had made up their minds to attend severely to discipline, when suddenly comes the general election, that knocks everything on the head. Between the dates of the return and issue of the writs it is illegal for the volunteers to be under arms, and so, serious as will be the disappointment to the volunteers themselves and to the general public, there is nothing to be done but to postpone the review until Whitsuntide, when the elections will be over, and every chance will be given for earning the commendation offered in advance by Lord Bury, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War.

Fashions change very rapidly in the world of decorative art. When the mania for collecting "blue and white" in cracked specimens from Holland came to an end owing to the very admirable imitations from modern Japan, and fortunate possessors of "aster plates" and hawthorn ginger-jars saw precisely the same patterns exquisitely imitated for a few shillings in Regent-street, it became necessary to cultivate a new craze. For a time it hovered about Chippendale chairs and Sheridan wardrobes; it dabbled in spindle-legged sideboards and very exquisite specimens of inlaid woodwork of English manufacture. But this fancy dropped because imitations were so frequent and modern work so good, when suddenly there sprang up a mania for collecting old prints, mezzotints, and engravings. Bartolozzi and Morlands fetched fabulous prices, pear-tree frames were thrust into the market, and Hogarths were repeated *ad nauseam*. Then grew up a spurious growth of grandmother pictures in round and oval frames. The æsthetic world raved about classical nymphs and swooning shepherdesses, and it became a "fad" to possess a Cotes, a Wilson, or an Angelica Kauffmann. For such collectors there will be a rare chance in April; for the authorities at the British Museum, very properly and most considerately, intend to sell off their surplus stock and duplicates, in order to add to their present very valuable collection. Nothing, surely, could be in better taste than that. Enthusiastic collectors are delighted. Money circulates, and the British Museum litter is cleared away in order to make room for a richer harvest. But, notwithstanding all this, objections are raised, and it is seriously urged that the overplus of the Museum ought to be presented to private institutions. That may be so; but still the idea of selling art-specimens in order to enrich an art-collection would surely commend itself to the political economist. But some people are never satisfied.

The conditions of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat-Race appear to have undergone a complete and radical change. Obviously, when the contest was first established, it was to decide which of the picked crews at either University was the better. The boats practised at home on the Isis and on the Cam, and would doubtless have rowed a home-and-home match had it been possible in the matter of space. In order to obviate this difficulty the crews came to London, and only practised on the Thames for a few days just to get into the swing of a tidal river and to practise starts. Twenty years ago the Boat-Race scarcely attracted the attention of the University men scattered about the various Government offices, and was not recognised as a holiday. Now, however, the whole system and complexion of the rowing of each University change after the departure from home waters. Everything changes, in sliding, beginning, and recovery, and it appears to be necessary to arrive at Putney by slow stages. Soon we shall hear of a crew beginning at Abingdon, polishing at Henley, improving at Marlow, getting style at Maidenhead, distinguishing itself at Kingston, and winning at Mortlake. In fact, it takes several spells on the Thames before a University crew seems to know how to row. They come to us raw boys, and they leave, to all intents and purposes, serious men. In fact, they use the lower reaches of the Thames in order to learn the art in which they are singularly deficient at the outset. The idea that the boat-race is or ever was intended as a compliment to the public is the greatest mistake in the world, for when asked to row later this year, and down instead of up the river, both presidents refused point blank, although the steam-boat authorities advocated the change. This looked ungenerous, but it was not so in reality, for one side of the river gives such an advantage to the down course that the race so rowed is virtually a handicap. The excitement concerning the race is not nearly so pronounced as usual, and the Universities will be delighted if the abnormally early hour of the contest this year should lessen the crowd and gradually reduce the absurdities that are draughted upon this athletic and characteristic festival.

"I am to be sworn, my Lord, am I?" said Thomas Groffin, the tall, thin, yellow-visaged chemist, who was caught for the jury in the Pickwick Trial. "Very well, my Lord; swear me if you please. I merely wanted to observe, my Lord, that I've left nobody but an errand-boy in my shop. He is a very nice boy, my Lord; but he is not acquainted with drugs; and I know that the prevailing impression on his mind is that Epsom salts mean oxalic acid, and syrup of senna, laudanum. 'That's all, my Lord!'" Now, there was a worthy stockbroker on a jury trying a case before Mr. Justice Stephen the other day, who was in pretty much the same predicament as Thomas Groffin, but he did not possess that amount of calmness and resignation that inspired "feelings of the deepest horror" in the breast of Mr. Pickwick. He was engaged in listening to a very trumpety case about the petty quarrels of a Dissenting community, when suddenly a dissolution of Parliament was announced. The stockbroker jurymen was called on suddenly to attend to his own business; clients rushed in to sell water-work shares as fast as they had bought them; he was consulted about the relative advantages of Unified and Preference Egyptian shares. All the commercial and stock-broking world was excited and up in arms, and how on earth could any sworn jurymen attend to the squabbles of Dissenters with all this work before him? So what do you think he did? He positively wrote to the learned Judge and the leading Counsel, and told them they could get on very well without him, that he would turn up in the middle of the day when he could find time, and he particularly impressed on the Foreman the necessity of taking ample notes in order that the stockbroker might read them when he came into court. No doubt this was a very amicable and business-like arrangement, but

the Judge did not see it in the same light as its proposer. In fact, he was very much scandalised, and having fined the jurymen one hundred pounds, sent him promptly about his business. But, after all, the industrious stockbroker was perfectly correct in his estimate, for the jury did get on very well without him, and did not apparently miss their coadjutor in the least possible degree. But it is a strange story for all that.

A good article could be written on the romance of swimming, from the days of Hero and Leander to the practical times of Captain Webb. Hero, a priestess of Venus, fell in love with Leander, who swam across the Hellespont every night to visit her. Poor fellow, one night he was unluckily drowned in his midnight adventure, and Hero, out of pure grief, threw herself into the troubled sea. What a falling off, is there not, between a love exploit of the kind and the mere keen struggle of physical endurance against time, when an athletic fellow like the hero of the Channel-swim consents to paddle about for sixty weary hours in the whale-tank of the Aquarium, supporting his dreary existence with minced beef, very raw, and potatoes of cold tea? It is impossible to conceive a more melancholy spectacle than a splendid specimen of manhood and muscle turning himself into the spectacle of a man-fish for the edification of a crowd of gaping spectators, unless it be the sight at the Agricultural Hall of those sad and dejected creatures hobbling round the track, and by sheer determination beating back nature's sweet restorer—sleep. Amongst the professors of the new doctrine that stretches a physical strain to the uttermost might be found many models for Gustave Doré should he intend to add to his "Il Purgatorio" of Dante. It is indeed "death in life," this struggle to get the better of nature that is called athleticism.

The English contractors who are honourably connected with our noble buildings in the metropolis might well take a lesson from M. Favre, the eminent Swiss gentleman who accomplished the St. Gothard Tunnel feat so punctually to time, and was so very seldom out in his calculations during the progress of a work of gigantic importance. There are no accurate records of the time it took to build Westminster Abbey, York Minster, or Salisbury Cathedral, when such construction was a labour of love; but it really does seem strange that modern improvements make so little difference in the hastening of our great London works. When, for instance, will the Law Courts be finished; will they take as long to complete as did the lions in Trafalgar-square? They get on, but oh! how slowly. The Master of the Rolls is still delivering his marvellous judgments up a court in Chancery-lane. Mr. Justice Fry presides at the end of a Lincoln's-Inn garden in a building that looks partly like a village infants' school, and partly resembles a crypt in which early Christians professed their faith; barristers still rush about in cabs between Guildhall and Westminster, where jurymen, counsel, and suitors are mixed up in inextricable confusion. The stereotyped reason given for the delay is that strikes and bad weather have interfered with the progress of the Law Courts; unfortunate circumstances that are, no doubt, hard to combat, but would seem to suggest extra pressure when workmen are satisfied and the sun shines. There is such a thing as a virtue known as making up for lost time.

During the coming election much will doubtless be said about the preservation of the "Union," and over many an electoral camp will float the folds of the British flag known as the "Union Jack." This is a favourite instance of an anachronism in stage production, since it is allowed to decorate scenes dating at a period before the Union was even distantly conceived—a fact not always known by the stage director, who is not clear that there is a distinct meaning in this favourite and gaudy ensign. The Union Jack is a composite design, and is properly a blue flag with three united crosses extending to the extreme edges:—First, the St. George's Cross, red and white, for England; second, the St. Andrew's Cross, white on blue, for Scotland; and third, the St. Patrick's Cross, red on white, for Ireland. In all other Admiralty flags containing the Union Jack the "Jack" above described is confined to the first quarter of the flag, or to a part thereof.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

The fisheries along the western shores of Ireland are next in importance to the cultivation of the land, as means of subsistence for the distressed population. Our Special Artist lately in Connemara furnishes the sketch of a fisherman's hut, which appears among the Engravings in this Number of our Journal. The total number of men and boys employed in all the deep-sea and coast fisheries of Ireland is about 21,000, with nearly six thousand vessels. Twenty years ago, in 1860, there were nearly 56,000 persons so employed, and about 13,500 vessels. In former periods there was a large measure of Government assistance to this industry. The amount of grants and loans from the Treasury, to support Irish fisheries, between 1821 and 1864, was not less than £234,000, of which £197,000 was expended on piers and harbours. The Board of Works are even now authorised to lend money for the building, purchase, or repairs of fishing-boats, of houses and sheds for curing fish, and for nets or other fishing gear; but in the year 1878 the applications for such loans came to only £11,808, half of which sum was granted on loan. The value of all the fish exported from Ireland to England in 1878 was estimated at £924,000, of which the salmon represents £418,000, herrings £241,000, mackerel, £97,000, and cod £166,000, besides oysters, crabs, and lobsters. But the herring fishery is chiefly in St. George's Channel, and is shared by Cornishmen, Manxmen, Scotchmen, and other people of Great Britain. The Galway deep-sea fisheries have sadly declined, and this occasions much distress, not only in Connemara, the maritime district north of Galway Bay, but all round the coasts of Mayo, Sligo, and Donegal, and in the numerous small islands. The sufferings of the poor islanders, at Inishboffin, Inisturk, Clare Island, Achill, and other places, have been very severe; and H.M.S. Goshawk, gun-boat, has been cruising about there, with an officer of the Local Government Board, and with stores of meal and other comforts, to visit and relieve the famishing people.

The general progress of the efforts by voluntary contributions to mitigate this great calamity in the West of Ireland continues without relaxation. The Duchess of Marlborough's Fund was reported last Monday to have reached £80,000, and the Dublin Mansion House Fund is £102,000, half of which has been expended. The committee of the Duchess of Marlborough's Fund have laid out £30,000 in seed potatoes. Arrangements for the distribution of the *New York Herald* Fund are now completed.

At the meeting of the supporters of the Indefatigable training-ship, the worshipful the Mayor of Liverpool on Tuesday promised to give a dock bond for £100, the interest to be appropriated as a prize for a clever and well-deserving boy going to sea.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

We recorded last week the close of the season of the Carl Rosa performances of operas in English, which took place on Saturday, when "The Bohemian Girl" was repeated in the afternoon and "Mignon" in the evening. A few words remain to be added to our last week's notice in reference to the first appearance of Madame Telma as Leonora in "The Trovatore." The lady possesses a good soprano voice, and sings and acts with much intelligence. She was well received throughout her performance, having been several times recalled. Mr. Joseph Maas sang finely as Manrico, Miss Josephine Yorke as Azucena sang and acted with special effect, and Mr. Ludwig was a very efficient Count di Luna, the cast having been completed by Mr. G. H. Snazelle as Ferrando, Mr. D. Thomas as Ruiz, and Miss E. Collins as Ines. Mr. Randegger conducted.

The specialty of the closing night was the appearance of Mr. Carl Rosa as conductor, for the only time this season, his absence having been occasioned by illness brought on by long and incessant exertions in the direction of his excellent company. He has been fortunate in having so competent a deputy as Mr. Randegger, by whom most of this season's performances have been conducted, Mr. John Pew having occasionally so officiated. Mr. Rosa's appearance on Saturday evening was hailed with repeated bursts of enthusiastic applause from an audience that filled every portion of the theatre. The performance of "Mignon" was similar to that of recent occasions, having included the artistic singing of Misses Gaylord, Burns, and Yorke, and Mr. Maas, respectively as Mignon, Filina, Frederic, and Wilhelm Meister, the cast having been otherwise also as before.

The company opened its provincial season on Monday at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. CHARLES HALLE'S BAND.

Special events of this week were the performances of this fine band of eighty-two performers at St. James's Hall on Tuesday, when two orchestral concerts were given—one in the afternoon, the other in the evening. On the former occasion, Cherubini's overture to "Anacreon," and Weber's to "Eury-anthe;" Beethoven's seventh symphony (in A), and the ninth by Schubert (in C), were magnificently played, tone, execution, and style having been alike excellent.

The orchestral works in the evening programme were:—Brahms's second symphony (in D) and Beethoven's No. 3 (the "Eroica"), the third of the "Leonora" overtures by the latter composer, and that by Mendelssohn to "Ruy Blas." Again the performances were of superlative excellence; as was their direction by Mr. Charles Hallé, whose conducting was admirable for clearness and decision in the indication of the various lights and shades of expression. The high provincial reputation of Mr. Hallé's Manchester band has received full justification by the marked success of its London performances.

Well known vocal pieces were contributed to the morning concert by Madame Patey, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Sautley—and in the evening by Miss L. Bailey and Herr Henschel.

The Philharmonic Society's third concert of the season, on Thursday week, brought forward, for the first time in England, an overture by M. Massenet, who is best known here by the Italian version of his "Le Roi de Lahore," produced at the Covent-Garden Opera establishment last season. The overture now referred to is entitled "Phèdre," and is intended to illustrate the classic legend. It is somewhat inflated in style and crude in structure, with some clever orchestral effects, which, however, are occasionally overwrought. The overture did not make a very favourable impression. The other instrumental pieces were Brahms's second symphony (in D), Beethoven's overture "Weihe des Hauses," and Mozart's to "La Clemenza di Tito;" Mendelssohn's violin concerto, and Herr Joachim's manuscript variations, both magnificently played by the great artist just named. Madame Patey sang finely in a very sombre air, "The Golden Gate," by Mr. J. F. Barnett, and Haydn's canzonet, "She never told her love." Mr. Cousins conducted, as usual.

The Royal Albert Hall Choral Society's seventh concert of the present season—on Thursday week—comprised fine performances of Dr. Ferdinand Hiller's "Song of Victory," the late Hermann Goetz's 137th Psalm, and Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang" ("Hymn of Praise"). The two former works were first given in London at a concert of the Musical Society in June last. Miss A. Marriott, who was the soprano soloist in the "Song of Victory," was encored in the solo (with chorus) "He in tears that soweth." The solo soprano music in Goetz's psalm was also admirably sung, the vocalist in this instance having been Mrs. Osgood. The two ladies named had to repeat the duet, "I waited for the Lord," in Mendelssohn's cantata. Mr. F. King gave the one bass solo in the psalm efficiently, and Mr. B. McGuckin sang the tenor solo music in the "Hymn of Praise" with great effect. Mr. Barnby conducted, and Dr. Stainer presided at the organ. "The Messiah" is to be given on Good Friday.

The second subscription concert of Mr. Henry Leslie's twenty-fifth and last season took place yesterday (Friday) week. The concert opened with Mendelssohn's noble "Antigone" music, the choral and orchestral effects in which were admirably rendered, the incidental solo portions having been very well given by Messrs. A. James, A. Thomas, F. A. Bridge, and J. Langman. These gentlemen sang the quartet "O Eros" so effectively as to gain an encore. The programme included the Chorus of Shepherds and "Mary's Song," from Mr. Leslie's sacred cantata "The First Christmas Morn," recently produced at Mr. Kuhe's Brighton Festival. The pieces again pleased much on the occasion now referred to, when, as before, the solo was very expressively sung by Miss Orridge. Herr Joachim's magnificent performances in Beethoven's violin concerto and some unaccompanied pieces by Bach were special features in the programme, which closed with Mendelssohn's overture to "Ruy Blas." Mr. Leslie conducted, as usual.

Last Saturday's Crystal Palace concert included the first appearance here of Herr R. Hausmann (of Berlin), who displayed a fine tone and skilful execution in his performance of Schumann's concerto for the violoncello, in addition to which Herr Hausmann played, also with much effect, an adagio by Locatelli and a mazurka by Popper. The performer obtained a decided success. The programme also included Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony, the ballet music of Verdi's "I Vespri Siciliani," and vocal pieces rendered by Madame Patey. This week's Saturday concert is to bring forward, for the first time in England, a violin concerto by the late Hermann Goetz, to be performed by Herr Heermann, of Frankfurt.

Miss Agnes Zimmermann was the pianist at this week's Monday Popular Concert, her solo performances having been Sterndale Bennett's "Three Musical Sketches," the last of which ("The Fountain") was encored. Miss Zimmermann's excellent pianoforte playing was also heard in a very cleverly written "Suite" for piano, violin, and violoncello, in association with Herr Joachim and Signor Piatti. Dvorak's string

sextet was repeated, and the programme included the second performance of Herr Henschel's characteristic "Serbisches Liederspiel," the vocalists in which were Miss L. Bailey, Middle, Hohenfeld, and Messrs. Shakspeare and Thorndike, the composer having presided at the piano. The season will close on March 22, and is to be supplemented, on the following Wednesday evening, by an extra concert for the benefit of Sir Julius Benedict.

Mr. Walter Bache's sixteenth annual concert took place on Thursday evening. We have already drawn attention to the special interest of the programme, and must speak of the performances next week.

Miss Rebbie Dunn's concert took place at Steinway Hall on Thursday afternoon.

The first public concert of the St. Cecilia choir (ladies' voices only), took place yesterday (Friday) evening, at the Royal Academy of Music. The performances must be noticed next week.

On Tuesday next the Bach choir (directed by Mr. Otto Goldschmidt) will give its first concert of the season at St. James's Hall, the programme including Brahms's "Requiem," Bach's "Magnificat," an anthem by Sir J. Goss, and a "Gloria" by Palestrina.

St. Patrick's day is to be celebrated by the customary annual evening concert of Irish ballads at St. James's Hall—some of our most eminent vocalists being announced to appear.

Madame Arabella Goddard has contributed a clever paper to this week's number of the *Girls' Own Paper* on "How to Play the Piano."

THEATRES.

A new piece has been produced at the St. James's, entitled "Old Cronies," by Mr. Theyre Smith, consisting only of two male characters. The scene is a library, well painted and appropriately set, introducing Dr. Jacks in the act of compiling a new dictionary. He is disturbed in his work by one Captain Pigeon, his old crony, whose philological ideas have sometimes assisted and sometimes only puzzled him in his labours. Now the Captain himself is puzzled in turn, for he is in love, and needs the counsel of a judicious friend whether he shall woo the lady in person or by letter, and if by letter he desires the Doctor's aid in its composition. The task is beyond them both. In conclusion, the lady is addressed by means of a telegram, to which the lady's father replies that the lady has already accepted a Major Bubble. The Doctor is represented by Mr. Mackintosh and the Captain by Mr. Wenman; both did justice to the wit of the dialogue.

Mr. Byron's "Dearer than Life" was revived on Saturday at the Folly. Mr. Toole, as Michael Garner, makes so favourable a figure that we are not surprised he should prefer the character, on the whole, to others better known. It exhibits him both in his tragic and comic moods, and equally in both secures the warmest sympathy of his audience. Mr. John Billington, as Uncle Ben, likewise commands their admiration. The other parts, also, were so well played that it is probable this excellent drama will command henceforth a special popularity.

Mrs. Bateman continues her laudable endeavours at New Sadler's Wells. "Othello" was acted on Monday, with Mr. Hermann Vezin in Iago, and Mr. Talbot in the noble Moor. The former acted with his usual neatness and precision; the latter with spirit and energy and much elocutionary power. His Othello, however, lacks depth and breadth, and shows no indication of having reached "the vale of years." It is more like Romeo, and, indeed, in its special passion reminds us more of the lover than the husband. Mr. Pennington, as Brabantio, acted with much judgment and feeling. Mr. F. Wyndham, as Cassio, was remarkably efficient. Miss Carlisle does not make a good Desdemona, and we have seen better Emilias than Mrs. Charles Calvert. On Monday Mr. Vezin will assume the rôle of Macbeth.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed on Tuesday added a new concluding piece to their performance. It is entitled "Three Flats," written by Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, with music by Edward Marlois. Its story is not particularly clear, but it is full of bustle and eccentric character. Its main incident consists of the jealousy of Mrs. Titus Brown (Miss Hudspeth), on account of a rehearsal previous to an amateur performance; but on learning its true character her anxiety is ended. There is also a caricature of a tragic author, Mr. Byron Jones, to which Mr. Alfred Reed gives especial prominence. The songs, duets, and quartets are good; indeed, better than usual. It was well received.

A gentleman, under the stage name of "George Lancaster," will make his first appearance as an actor at the Olympic about Easter in a comediotta of his own writing, entitled "Shakspeare on the Brain." He is, we understand, the son of a popular poet and author, and has inherited much of his father's literary ability. He is a meritorious journalist and magazine writer.

A large and fashionable audience assembled in the theatre of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution last Wednesday, on the occasion of the reopening of that building by Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Mr. Justice Fry, who is the president, occupied the chair.

On Wednesday afternoon the annual general meeting of the Royal Literary Fund took place at the chambers of the corporation, Adelphi-terrace. The Earl of Derby was in the chair. The report of grants awarded in 1879 classifies the authors relieved, who were thirty-six in number, receiving £1760. The fund began operations in 1790 with one grant of £10, since which time it has annually increased to its present gratifying total.—In conclusion, it was announced that the annual dinner will take place on May 5, and that Mr. Millais had consented to take the chair.

Modern Greek, as a language in popular use with that small, but active and aspiring, nation, which promises soon to rise into political importance, claims the attention of practical men. Its study has also been recommended as an extra scholastic aid to the mastery of those idioms which characterise the Greek of the New Testament as distinguished from the style of classical authors. Professor J. S. Blackie, of Edinburgh, has long been an earnest advocate of this view, and has insisted on the learning of Greek, not only from books, but as a living tongue, by oral conversation with Greeks of the present age. "A Handbook to Modern Greek," the joint work of Captain Edgar Vincent, Coldstream Guards, and of Mr. T. G. Dickson, lately published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., is just what was required. It combines an adequate scientific grammar, with familiar dialogues for the common occasions of travelling, shopping, and visiting, forms of letter-writing, and extracts from the current literature of Modern Greece. The preface, written by Professor Blackie, lends fresh interest to the subject, and may convince the reader that it is worth some pains to gain an acquaintance with the language of Athens as it is at this day.

NEW BOOKS.

A work of considerable interest and usefulness, by Mr. T. H. S. Escott, bearing the title of *England, its People, Polity, and Pursuits*, has already reached a second edition. It forms two octavo volumes, published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, of which several editions have already been demanded. The author, who has had some experience as a journalist and writer of contemporary history, was very well qualified for the task undertaken in this work. His plan was to draw a comprehensive sketch of the social and political conditions of this country, its domestic government, metropolitan and local institutions, administration of the laws, state of property, trade, and industry, manners and habits of life. Though some measure of this kind of knowledge must naturally accrue to every person who lives in the world, it is probable that very few individual Englishmen or Englishwomen, perhaps none of the latter, have made a complete study of the circumstances prevailing in different parts of England. The differences between town life and rural life, the characteristics of each of the great provincial towns, compared with London, and the diverse aspects of society in the agricultural districts, and in the manufacturing or commercial centres, as well as the peculiarities of different ranks and classes of people, cannot equally fall within personal observation when one has been accustomed to a single place of residence, and to a particular line of social duties. Mere travelling about and visiting does not make one intimately acquainted with these local varieties of habit, taste, and feeling; and the Londoner, unless he was born and brought up in the country, is apt to have very incorrect ideas of his fellow-countrymen in the North or West of England. Mr. Escott's book will serve to assist those who read it in forming a clear and vivid conception, not so much of places, as of the daily life and occupations, the interests, customs, and ideas of their inhabitants. The ordinary rural village is first described, with its squire or principal landowner, its parson, and parish officers; and the more systematic administration of several great landed properties, those of the Dukes of Northumberland, Devonshire, Cleveland, and Bedford, and the Marquis of Westminster, is particularly noticed. An account is then given of the institutions of local government and legal administration; first, in the rural districts, by elected guardians of the poor, and by justices of the peace, or county magistrates, with their petty sessions and quarter sessions, not omitting the functions of the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff; secondly, in the borough and city municipalities, by their mayors, aldermen, and town councillors, with some remarks upon local boards of health and highway management, and upon parish vestry authorities. The imperfect provision of municipal government for London, regarded as an entire city, is also made the subject of remark. The succeeding two chapters respectively on "Towns of Business" and "Towns of Pleasure" will be found not the least entertaining portion of Mr. Escott's book. Those of his readers who have never yet visited Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and several large manufacturing towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire, may here get some notion of what they are like. In the second class of towns, besides the noted seaside and inland "watering places" as they are still called, such as Brighton and Scarborough, Bath, Buxton, and Cheltenham, the author has dealt with some older towns of graver pretensions—the University seats of Oxford and Cambridge, and cathedral cities like Exeter, or garrison towns like Portsmouth and Plymouth. It is obvious that all these are not mere "towns of pleasure," but they are places which constantly attract a leisurely class of resident families, and in which the commercial influence is kept subordinate. Mr. Escott's descriptions are necessarily slight and superficial; and the reader who has actually lived in any of the places he mentions cannot fail to detect some omissions, or positive errors of detail; but the whole may pass for a tolerably fair sketch of their general aspects. More substantial topics of discussion are propounded in the chapters on commercial, monetary and financial, industrial, economic, tradesman-like shopkeeping and working-class England, which may be studied just now with no small advantage. The statistics of pauperism, the expediency and morality of thrift, the effect of trades' unions and co-operative societies for English artisans, are thoughtfully considered. The next subject dealt with is the police and judicial machinery for the detection, prosecution, and punishment of criminals and the management of prisons and reformatories. If all this should have seemed to a feminine reader somewhat dry, too much like a newspaper leading article, she will, perhaps, be amused with the chapter on "travelling and hotels," in which everybody feels a personal concern. Education, including the elementary, the grammar-schools and other middle-class teaching, the public schools and Universities, is also disposed of in the first volume. Mr. Escott's view in his second volume is directed towards the higher social, political, and mental interests of the nation. He attempts to analyse the structure of English society, defining the aristocracies of birth or rank and wealth, observing their relations to each other, and those of the professional and mercantile classes; he traces also the progress of a social revolution, as he regards it, partly caused by French and other foreign influences, affecting domestic habits, the methods of housekeeping, marriage and female independence, and behaviour of men to women. In these disquisitions, as well as in that on "Society and Politics," he may not win the entire assent of every reader, and it would be easy for us to take exception to some of his remarks; but their tone is moderate and impartial, and neither truth nor charity is at all offended. We could have well spared, in point of literary taste, such alliterative headings as "Crown and Crowd," under which the author begins his portrait of the British Constitution. The official composition of the Queen's Government, the two Houses of Parliament, the Civil Service, the Law Courts, the Army and Navy, are described with sufficient precision. We then arrive at the examination of English social activity in the departments of religious worship and doctrine, scientific and philosophical inquiry, literature and the fine arts, "culture," and the variety of public or private amusements. These interesting themes are treated in several chapters which do not lack vigour and originality of thought, whatever may be said to the author's opinions regarding them. His spirit is free from sectarian animosity and from dictatorial pedantry, and there is a vein of good sense underlying his judgments, which are quietly and calmly set forth. An example of these meritorious qualities will be found in his review of the position of the Established Church and the several bodies of Dissenters, including Roman Catholics and the Jews. His reflections upon the state of the dramatic art in this country seem worthy of attention. The position and prospects of the liberal professions, of the Bar, medicine and surgery, teachers and schoolmasters, and officers in the army, are discussed with the seriousness befitting a question of no slight anxiety to parents of growing boys. "Imperial England" is the argument of the concluding chapter, which has something to say of the possible future relations of the colonies to the mother-country. But here we feel that the author is travelling beyond his prescribed range of contemplation; and he might as well have

taken in Scotland and Ireland, before extending the purview to remote dominions of the British Empire.

Literature, more or less worthy of the name, has attained such extraordinary dimensions that a general complaint is heard about the impossibility of reading a moderate percentage of even the newest and most original works which are issued day after day from the unwearied press, and it therefore becomes a question whether reprints, especially when they are of no more intrinsic value and excellence than Boswell's *Correspondence and Journal of a Tour to Corsica*, edited by George Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L. (Thomas De La Rue and Co.), stand much chance of acceptance. It is all very well to say that "to the men of his generation" Boswell "was chiefly known for his work on Corsica and for his friendship with Paoli," and to suggest the inference that it was therefore worth while to republish his "Journal of a Tour to Corsica;" but to the men of this generation and to posterity all that particularly deserves to be known of Boswell and of his literary achievements is likely to be preserved by constant republication of that inimitable, or at any rate unsurpassable, biography which, as his only standard work, is entitled to and will probably always attain the dignity of successive reprints, a dignity not to be lightly conferred upon any but standard works. And why should Boswell's "Correspondence with the Honourable Andrew Erskine" be reprinted? Because, we are informed, the letters "throw almost as much light on Boswell's character as the Journal throws light on his powers as a writer." Otherwise, the editor would "not have proposed to republish them." And by the light thus thrown that character is neither seen to any great advantage nor made to assume an appearance very different from that which it has hitherto presented. Nobody will be surprised to find that with "simplicity and oddity" Boswell combined "an impudence that was lively and amusing;" and readers are far more likely to be "amazed at the audacity with which two young men ventured to publish to the world the correspondence which had passed between them when they were scarcely of age" than edified by the republication of that correspondence. It is possible, nevertheless, that such apprehensions may be unfounded, and that the public will give a warm welcome to the volume which has been prepared for their gratification. At any rate, the editor's part has been done in a manner which leaves little or nothing to be desired. He has been considerate enough to supply what cannot be regarded as at all superfluous information concerning the Hon. Mr. Erskine who figures in the correspondence, of whom the majority of readers will undoubtedly be at a loss to recall the faintest recollection. It appears that the gentleman "was the youngest son of Alexander, fifth Earl of Kellie;" served for some time in the Army, retired therefrom and settled in Edinburgh; was pretty regular in his habits, but "indulged occasionally at cards, and was partial to the game of whist. Having sustained a serious loss at his favourite pastime, he became frantic, and threw himself into the Forth and perished." He was "of a tall, portly form," we are apprised, "and to the last wore gaiters and a 'wapped vest,'" a statement which induces the editor to conclude, though the point of the conclusion is not easy to see, that "no doubt he had them on when he drowned himself." But, whatever may have happened to the gaiters and the flapped vest of Boswell's correspondent, the correspondence itself was not affected thereby; and to that correspondence reference is made, when we are assured that "he who would know Boswell at his happiest—when he was, as Hume described him, very good humoured, very agreeable, and very mad, must read his volume of Letters, and the journals of his Tours to Corsica and the Hebrides." And the accomplishment of this duty, as regards two thirds of it, is greatly facilitated by the volume under consideration.

Disbelievers—and they are many—in the infallibility, or even the efficacy, of competitive examinations will be much encouraged by what is recorded in the introductory remarks with which the two handsome volumes entitled *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio*, translated and annotated by Herbert A. Giles (Thomas De La Rue and Co.), are presented to the reader. It is just two hundred years since, in 1679, the author of these "strange stories," which were "to raise him within a short period to a foremost rank in the Chinese world of letters," completed the literary labour to which he began to devote himself after and in consequence of his failure, at some period before 1651, to obtain the master's degree for which he had competed. The stories, we are informed, were "for many years circulated in manuscript only," which will account for erroneous assertions as to the date of their composition. It was not until 1740, apparently, when the author must have been a long while in his grave, that his "grandson printed and published the collection now so universally famous." The English reader will, no doubt, have some difficulty in understanding how and why the stories should have attained their extraordinary popularity; for, beyond their dealings with the weird and the supernatural, they have in them little or nothing to make them interesting as mere tales that are told. As specimens, however, of what it is the fashion to call folk-lore they are undoubtedly of great value; they shed a flood of light upon "the manners, customs, and social life of China." The translator's notes, too, will be found of enormous service. If he uses familiar English terms as the equivalents for Chinese expressions, he is careful to explain that he has done so and to add the literal interpretation. For instance, although he divides graduates into "bachelors," "masters," and the rest of it, he tells us in a note that "the three degrees are literally, (1) Cultivated Talent, (2) Raised Man, and (3) Promoted Scholar." And in other cases there is reason to believe that he is equally considerate, when explanation is desirable. One of the many stories is entitled "Adulteration Punished;" we cannot hope that it will have a deterrent effect upon our adulterators, but it tends to confirm a very general belief that the public prefer to have their alcoholic drinks adulterated, if only their intoxicating qualities be thereby intensified. As for the translator's fitness for the task he undertook, he offers the most unquestionable evidence; in the spring of 1867 he "began the study of Chinese at H.B.M.'s Legation, Peking;" then came "a long novitiate of utterly uninteresting, and, indeed, most repellent labour—inseparable, however, from the acquisition of this language;" and, at last, in the spring of 1877, "while acting as Vice-Consul at Canton," he buckled to for the work of translation, for which he had qualified himself by constant study of the Chinese language and by incessant observation of people, places, and things at various Chinese stations too numerous to set down here. It will be surprising if his work do not meet with considerable acceptance and be not regarded as entitling him to a warm vote of thanks on the part of all to whom Chinese folk-lore is a matter of concern, to say nothing of the simply curious and inquiring reader.

The Rev. Dr. Allon has been nominated by the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales to fill the office of chairman next year, which will be the jubilee year of the Union.

THE LATE MAJOR COOK, V.C.

The death of this gallant officer of the 5th Goorkhas, from a wound received on the night of Dec. 12 in the conflict to hold the position on the Takht-i-Shah, above the city of Cabul, has been mentioned in former accounts of the series of engagements which preceded the retirement of General Roberts's forces within the cantonments at Sherpore. He died on Dec. 19, which was the nineteenth anniversary of the date of his first commission. He was the son of a Scottish advocate and sheriff, and was one of the last cadets who passed the examinations at the close of Addiscombe as a military training college. His schoolfellow was the late Captain J. Dundas, R.E., V.C., who has also fallen in the Afghan War. The act of gallantry for which Major Cook received the Victoria Cross is thus officially recorded:—"For a signal act of valour at the action of the Peiwar Kotul, on Dec. 2, 1878, in having, during a very heavy fire, charged out of the intrenchments with such impetuosity that the enemy broke and fled, when, perceiving at the close of the mêlée the danger of Major Galbraith, Assistant Adjutant-General, Khorum Column Field Force, who was in personal conflict with an Afghan soldier, Captain Cook distracted his attention to himself, and, aiming a sword cut, which the Douranee avoided, sprang upon him, and, grasping his throat, grappled with him. They both fell to the ground. The Douranee, a most powerful man, still endeavouring to use his rifle, seized Captain Cook's arm in his teeth, until the struggle was ended by the man being shot through the head."



THE LATE MAJOR JOHN COOK, V.C.

THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.

By the terms of its Charter, in 1846, the Art-Union of London was required to reserve a sum of 2½ per cent on its receipts each year, to form a fund "for the purpose of purchasing or building a gallery, and providing a permanent fund for the objects of the society." The council have felt themselves in a position to erect the new building in the Strand, adjacent to the churchyard of the Savoy, with access in the rear for the reception and dispatch of goods. The style adopted is Italian, treated in the Palladian manner, with Corinthian three-quarter columns and pilasters to the first or principal story. The ground floor has a central entrance, over which the special device of the Art-Union is carved, with reclining youths as supporters. The spandrels of the three arches above are sculptured with boys bearing the insignia of the Fine Arts—Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. The pilasters are divided into panels, carved with arabesques and separated by circles, containing heads of some of the representative artists of the Renaissance and of modern times. The upper part of the elevation is rusticated in the Florentine style, the windows deeply recessed, and the arches bearing voussoirs and being slightly pointed. Each window is surmounted by a carved panel, having the cypher of the society, "A. U. L.," and the motto, "L'Union fait la Force," worked in stone. The frieze beneath displays the words "Art-Union of London." The windows of both the upper stories have balconies, those of the second floor being curved. The carving, which was very well executed by Messrs. Mabey, of Prince's-mews, is suggestive of the purpose of the institution, the union of the arts and encouragement of a taste among the public. The back elevation is of brick, with arched recesses; the Strand front is of Portland stone throughout. The contractors were Messrs. Perry, of Bow. The late Mr. E. M. Barry, R.A., was the architect of the new building.

THE ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL.

The great work of boring a railway tunnel, nine miles and a quarter long, through the St. Gothard clump of the Alps, from Göschenen, in the Swiss Canton of Uri, to Airolo, on the Italian side, was accomplished on Sunday week. Our Illustrations, from sketches by a Special Artist on the spot, represent the meeting of the two opposite working parties in the centre of the tunnel, at the hour on Sunday morning when they broke through the last intervening piece of rock; and, secondly, the arrival of the first train that passed through to Airolo, on the Tuesday following. Airolo is in the Swiss Italian Canton of Ticino. In the Number of our Journal for June 23, 1877, we presented views of the north and south ends of the St. Gothard Tunnel; the boring-machine, worked by compressed air, which was used to perforate the rock with a number of small holes for blasting; the great cylindrical iron tank or reservoir of compressed air, from which it was supplied to those machines as they advanced farther into the tunnel; and a water-conduit over the Albinasca ravine, on the Italian side, conveying the stream used to work the air-condensing machines, of which there were more than twenty at both ends of the tunnel. These Illustrations were accompanied by an authentic description of the works, which had been written expressly for our Journal by one of the engineers, and to which our readers may again be referred upon the present occasion. A more general account of the subject can here be given, without entering into minute details.

The St. Gothard group of mountains are situated between the Simplon, to the east, and the Lukmanier and Splügen Passes, to the west, rising above the head of the Lago Maggiore, and wholly in the territory of Switzerland. They contain the sources both of the Rhone and the Rhine, of the Reuss and

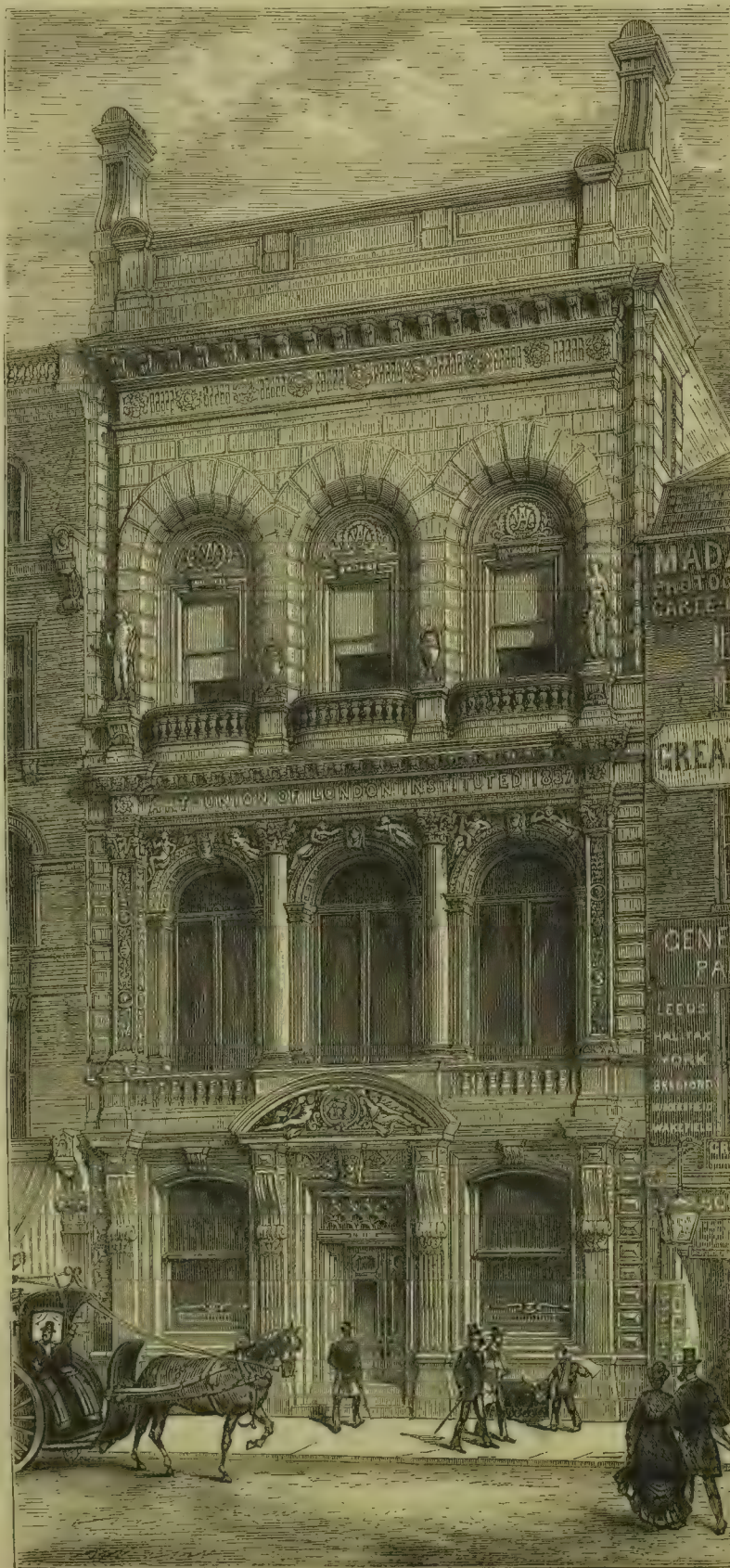
the Ticino or Tessin rivers. The road across the St. Gothard Pass is the direct route southward from Lucerne, Schwyz, and Altorf, in Switzerland, to Bellinzona, Lugano, and Como, in Lombardy, and thence to Milan. The St. Gothard is about half-way from Zürich to Milan, in an almost direct line, and it stands in the most direct route from Basle, from Strasburg, from Calais or Ostend, and from London. As a convenience for English travellers to Italy, this new railway through the Alps will be much preferred to the Mont Cenis Railway, which owed its construction to the Piedmontese Government, under Count Cavour's bold and energetic administration, having been projected and commenced before the union of Italy in one kingdom. The tunnel through the Col de Frejus, commonly called the Mont Cenis tunnel, is a mile and two-thirds shorter than that of the St. Gothard. The latter work was begun in September, 1872, and the boring of the Alps has thus been completed in seven years and a half; but it will be some months before all the works along the approaches to each end of the tunnel are finished and the permanent railroad is made ready for traffic.

The north end of the tunnel at Göschenen is 3630 feet above the level of the sea, in the upper valley of the Reuss; and Airolo, at the south end, 3870 feet in elevation, in the Val Bedretto, is at the head of the Upper Livinen, or Laventina, down which the Ticino flows to Bellinzona and the Lago Maggiore. The centre of the tunnel is at an elevation of 3779 feet. The St. Gothard road over the summit of the Pass was made about sixty years ago; it is safe and clear for traffic between May and October. The tunnel now opened has been constructed by a railway company, which undertook, in 1871, to make the whole line from Lucerne to Locarno on the Lago Maggiore, assisted by grants from the Governments of Switzerland, Germany, and Italy. There are several other tunnels and very steep cuttings on different portions of the line.

The plans were originally prepared by M. Helweg, as chief engineer, and M. Louis Favre was the chief contractor, who sublet the work of the tunnel, estimating its cost at two millions sterling, to several part-contractors. They have employed nearly 2000 people, miners, smiths, carpenters, and engineers, to perform this work, assisted by the perforating machines and water-power supplied by turbines outside the tunnel at each end. The machines resemble those which were used in the Mont Cenis tunnel, consisting of upright iron frames, which carry a series of piercing tools, set at the required height by screws and levers, and driven into the face of the rock by pistons working in cylinders with the force of compressed air behind them. Water was constantly injected into the holes, to soften the rock; and when the boring was done, to the depth of 3 ft. or 4 ft., and about 1½ inch diameter, the machine was drawn back, the holes were charged with dynamite, and the rock was removed by blasting. This could be done three or four times a day. The operations were carried on from both ends at once—a process which naturally demands that the plans of the engineers shall have been drawn with faultless minuteness. A deviation of one inch in the line within the first mile would have brought the workmen very far wide of their mark before the end of the thirty-sixth furlong was reached. As it is, the boring has been so correctly performed that the workmen from Airolo were, on Sunday week, shaking hands with those of Göschenen. It seems that these brave fellows have been toiling in a temperature scarcely lower than that in a hothouse, for, though the compressed-air machines are ingeniously contrived to furnish ventilation, it has been found almost impossible to carry currents of cool air down a shaft over four miles long. Under the circumstances, the work which the honest miners have done has been truly heroic; and nobody will grudge them hearty congratulations.

The last period of the work was naturally one of no little excitement. The first intimation the workmen on the Göschenen side had of the final stage was the fact that pieces of rock fell down without any assistance on their part. Then they listened, and heard the sound of operations on the Airolo side. Terrified lest an explosion should take place, they retreated as rapidly as possible to a distance. On reapproaching the head of the gallery they saw the Airolo borer and touched it; but it was heated to such a degree that they burned their hands. After the news had been spread on the Saturday night, no one thought of going to sleep. At any moment now the culmination of eight years' labour might be announced. At seven o'clock in the morning a train started from each end of the tunnel, carrying all the officials and their invited guests and friends. The machines were working on both sides, and when the guests arrived near the middle of the tunnel there was only one third of a metre of rock dividing them and remaining to be removed before they could meet. As it was from the Airolo side that the borer had penetrated through, it was arranged by means of the telegraph connecting the two ends that the Airolo men should have the honour of completing the last portion of the work.

Preparations were made accordingly, and at a quarter past eleven the final blasting operations were performed, and after eight separate detonations, the last remnants of the wall of rock dividing the two portions of the tunnel were blown away, and with loud cheers the officials, workmen, and guests who had been waiting on either side, rushed forward and embraced each other.



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.



GENERAL COUNT LORIS MELIKOFF, THE NEW RUSSIAN DICTATOR.

In the middle of the tunnel Inspector Kauffmann addressed the assembled crowd with a few warm and hearty words, congratulating them on the accomplishment of the great work, and not forgetting to mention those, including M. Favre, the original contractor, who had been carried off by death just before the completion of the undertaking, after having devoted their best energies to it from its commencement. The rejoicing at the completion of the work was, indeed, damped by the universal regret that M. Favre was not there to enjoy the triumph. The respect and affection in which M. Favre was held could not receive a more striking illustration than was evidenced in the fact that the first thing to pass through the opening in the tunnel was the photograph of M. Favre, which the Airolo men handed through to those on the Göschenen side.

The workman who had the management of the borer which first penetrated the rock is named Celestin Negaraveglia. He drew the instrument back and shouted through the opening to the Göschenen men "Bon jour!" Then he ran without any lamp two miles and a half to the telegraph, to announce to the Airolo people the joyful news. He and Pietro Chirio, who was allowed the honour of firing off the last blasting charges, are two of the oldest workmen. It is somewhat melancholy to reflect that of the hundreds and thousands of labourers employed on the tunnel there are, besides Negaraveglia and Chirio, only about a dozen on each side who have remained on the work from first to last.

The ceremony of distributing the commemorative medals, which took place in front of the gaily-decorated entrances to the tunnel at both the Airolo and Göschenen ends at the same time, was conducted by the chief engineers of the two sections. Every labourer, even down to the youngest errand boy engaged on the work, received a medal. The size of the medal is about that of a five-franc piece. On one side, within a wreath of bay-leaves, is the date of the completion of the tunnel, "March, 1880," surrounded by the words, "*Ai lavoratori al traforo del Gottardo.*" (To the workmen engaged in tunnelling the St. Gothard.) On the other side are the arms of the three participating States, together with their names, Germania, Helvetia, Italia, and underneath the words, "*Viribus unitis.*"

Two trains on the Tuesday conveyed the Göschenen men on a visit to Airolo, the engineers and their friends and visitors going by the first, and the workmen by the second train. On the same evening the engineers proceeded with the work of verifying the axis and level of the tunnel.

COUNT LORIS MELIKOFF.

This important and powerful agent of the Russian Imperial Government for the express purpose of putting down the Nihilist conspiracy has already had his own life attempted; but the assassin, failing in his attempt, was instantly seized and promptly sent to execution. In appointing Count Loris Melikoff to the head of the Supreme Executive Commission, his Majesty made a long speech highly praising his merits and his trustworthiness. At the same time, the Czar nominated him his Assistant First Counsellor and Supreme Governor of the Empire. The Czar closed his remarks as follows:—"Do now what you believe to be good and useful." These words were uttered distinctly by the Emperor, who at the same moment warmly pressed the hand of the Count. With this act ended the late Ministerial Councils, and the Russian Government has, in fact, passed into a temporary Dictatorship, which may, however, be revoked at the Emperor's pleasure.

There are many favourable testimonies as to the character of General Loris Melikoff from the Russian Press. According to one journal, the secret of his great success is that into all he does he not only throws himself with all his talent and all his energy, but also with all his heart. It is thus that, wherever he has been intrusted with duties of importance, he has gained the sympathy of the people without showing the slightest weakness. One writer proves that he is favourable to liberty of the Press; another says that so great is his popularity in the Caucasus, where most of his days have been spent, that there is not a Cossack or a mountaineer but says—"There is but one Sundja, one Terek; there is but one Loris, one Melikoff;" in fact, with the exception of certain Generals, who are professionally jealous, people of all ranks and conditions greet the choice of the Czar with a unanimity of approval rare in any country—in Russia perhaps unexampled. It is true that some apprehension has been felt in St. Petersburg at the vast powers now intrusted to Count Melikoff as Chief of the Executive Committee. But those personally acquainted with him, and who have had the opportunity of observing him in the discharge of his functions as Commander of the military district of Terek, in the Caucasus, and as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army in Armenia, consider the alarm groundless. They attribute it to the fact of his Armenian extraction; to the ignorance respecting him prevailing in the Russian capital, Count Melikoff's career having been made in

the Caucasus, his native country; and, lastly, to the association of his name with the severe measures taken by him to stamp out the plague in the Volga. It is predicted that the head of the newly-created Commission will yet be able to overcome the prejudices existing against him. Though of Armenian extraction, Count Loris Melikoff was educated in the Cadet School of the Guard, and has passed his life in the Russian military service. Except for his spare frame and strongly marked Armenian features, he has become entirely Russianised, the one Oriental trait conspicuous in him being, perhaps, a peculiar natural shrewdness and acuteness, developed by his great commerce with men of the most various kinds congregated in the Caucasian land. Instead, therefore, of being disposed to violent and extraordinary measures, he much prefers to employ in the execution of his functions the natural skill he possesses in managing men, and it is even anticipated that he will ultimately conquer for himself in St. Petersburg, not only recognition, but even popularity on the part of all really anxious for the extinction of the evil he has been called to grapple with. As Governor-General during the time of the plague, while stringently carrying out measures of isolation and removal of the population, he always relaxed the rigour of his arrangements whenever he could do so safely. The people of St. Petersburg will therefore, it is inferred, find that under Count Melikoff they will be less exposed than hitherto to the vexations of the police authorities, the excited and confused supervision exercised till now being replaced by regular and systematic vigilance. It remains to be seen whether the popular apprehension of St. Petersburg or the opinion based on personal acquaintance with the man will prove the more correct. It is rumoured that Count Loris Melikoff has appointed as members of the new Executive Commission Count Pahlen, late Minister of Justice; M. de Reutern, late Minister of Finance; Prince Ourousoff, and General Ignatieff.

It was stated in our foreign news last week that, on the Wednesday afternoon, Count Loris Melikoff was shot at by an assassin, when alighting at the door of his own house in the Grand Morskaja. The bullet from a revolver passed through his cloak and coat, but inflicted no wound. The would-be murderer was a young man of thirty, a baptised Jew named Wladetsky, who was a native of Poland, and is said to have been a student of the Gymnasium of Minsk. He was instantly seized, and was tried by a court-martial sitting in private next day, and was condemned to death, and was hanged on Friday morning.

in presence of an immense concourse of spectators. The condemned man was brought from the fortress to the place of execution strapped in a sitting position to a high seat on a black-painted vehicle, and placed with his back to the horses. A placard, bearing the words "State criminal," was attached to his breast. A sotnia of Cossacks escorted the car. The scaffold was erected in the Simeonofsky Plain, and was surrounded by infantry formed in hollow square. On the way to the scaffold, and after reaching it, Wladetzky appeared quite calm, even smiling occasionally. After the sentence had been read the prisoner turned and bowed on all sides to the people, and just before being delivered over to the hangman he spoke a few words to the priest and kissed the cross. The body remained hanging about twenty minutes. Just as it was being taken down the police arrested seven men in the crowd having the appearance of students. They were taken off to the fortress under strong escorts of police and cavalry.

An official communication from Count Loris Melikoff is published, addressed to the Mayor of St. Petersburg, inviting the municipality to elect three or four representatives, who, with the Mayor, will take a consultative part in the Commission on questions relating to public tranquillity in St. Petersburg.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Butter, J., Vicar of St. Michael, Coventry; to be Surrogate. Constable, John; Rector of Marston Bigot, near Frome. Johnston, George Herbert; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Crockham-hill, Kent. Molony, Charles Arthur; Vicar of St. Lawrence, Thanet. Palmer, H. J.; Curate of Northfleet, Gravesend. Stone, Edward Henry Montague; Perpetual Curate of Queenhill. Style, Frederick Newton; Vicar of Crockham-hill, Kent. Tucker, John Mureh; Curate of St. Mary's, Monmouth. Wilson, W. T. H.; Vicar of Burlingham, Norfolk; Vicar of Widcombe, Bath. Winterborn, B. T.; Vicar of Hornay, Lancaster. Wright, B., Vicar of Brownhill, Birstal, near Leeds; Rector of Darlaston, Staffordshire.—*Guardian*.

The Dean of Arches last Saturday admitted the articles presented on behalf of Mr. Martin, in a new suit against the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, of St. Alban's, Holborn.

The committee having charge of the fund raised as a testimonial to the Bishop of Manchester on the occasion of his marriage have resolved, at the request of his Lordship, to devote the whole of it to the foundation of a scholarship at the Owens College, to be called the "Bishop Fraser Scholarship."

The annual meeting of the Church Association was held on the 5th inst.—Mr. Lovell in the chair. The report congratulated the members on the circumstance that, owing to the efforts of their association, Ritualistic practices are no longer on the increase, but are decreasing. Lord Orammore expressed his dissatisfaction that, after spending £12,000 in prosecuting Mr. Mackonochie, the council had not asked the Court to enforce its judgment, but had commenced a fresh suit. He had therefore resigned his office as a vice-president of the association. The chairman said it was not the fault of the council that the law and the judgment of the Court were not obeyed. He anticipated a speedy conclusion to the new proceedings. Resolutions sustaining the policy of the council were passed.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

At Oxford, the Senior Mathematical Scholarship has been awarded to J. C. Bowman, Scholar of Corpus; the Junior to C. H. Sampson, Scholar of Balliol. Highly distinguished, in the Senior Examination, E. Buck, Scholar of Hertford College; in the Junior, A. R. Sharpe, Scholar of New College. Lady Herschel's prize for distinction in that part of the Senior Examination which relates to Astronomy was awarded to Mr. Bowman. The Ireland Scholarship has been awarded to J. W. Mackail, Exhibitioner of Balliol, who has also obtained the Hertford Scholarship this year. Mr. Arthur M. Evanson, Commoner of Jesus College, has been elected to the vacant Copleston Exhibition at Oriel College.

At Cambridge, the name of the Hon. J. G. H. Keith-Falconer has been published as having passed the examination in the First Class for the Semitic Languages Tripos.

The scholarship examination at Rugby will begin on June 15. There are nine scholarships, of which five are classical, two mathematical, one for French, and one for science. All are tenable as long as a boy remains in the school.

The Rev. J. A. Babington, M.A., at present Head Master of Lincoln, has been appointed Second Master of Tonbridge Grammar School, in the place of the late Rev. E. I. Welldon. He will take the superintendence of the modern side, towards the endowment of which Mr. E. Cazalet, the Liberal candidate for Mid-Kent, has offered £10,000.

Mr. A. H. Hobhouse, of Marlborough College, and Keble College, Oxford, has been appointed to a mastership in Bedford County School.

By a boiler explosion at the Glasgow Ironworks yesterday week three men were killed on the spot, and of those who were taken to the infirmary more than twenty have since died.

Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., has been elected chairman of the Epping Bench of Magistrates, in succession to the late Rev. H. Cockerell.

Mr. Charles Thynne has, we understand, been appointed to the office of Assistant-Solicitor to the Board of Customs, in the room of Mr. James O'Dowd, recently deceased.

There was unveiled in Victoria Park, Portsmouth, on the 4th inst., a monument to the officers and men of Her Majesty's ship *Active* who fell whilst forming part of the Naval Brigade in Zululand. The monument is an exceedingly handsome one.

A police-constable named Mason, stationed at Lewisham, was presented last Saturday with a cheque for £100 for his gallantry in attacking two burglars. He was shot in the hand, and rendered insensible by a blow on the head in the struggle.

The French Government has awarded a gold medal and diploma to William Gould, Commissioned Boatman of Coast-guard at Penzance, in recognition of the services rendered by him at the wreck of the brig Pouthieu in May last.

A party of Volunteer officers attended at the battery of the 1st Lanarkshire Artillery Volunteers, at Irvine, last Saturday, when a 40-pounder shell, into which a fuse was being driven, exploded, and caused the explosion of another shell. Nine persons were severely injured, Colonel Watson and Sergeant Kirker fatally so. Kirker acknowledged before his death that his own carelessness had caused the accident.

The popular paper-knife is the name given to a useful novelty, the invention of Mr. R. B. Marston, issued by Messrs. Charles Reynolds and Co. It is of the ordinary size of a paper-knife, having a black handle and white blade, the surface of the latter having been utilised by printing on it a large amount of useful information, consisting of English and French measures, postal rates for letters, books, and newspapers, and regulations respecting post-cards, money orders, and telegrams.

NOVELS.

The commendable practice, once almost universal, but discontinued for some time past, of recording upon the titlepage of a novel reprinted from a periodical the fact of the reprint, together with the name of the periodical, has been revived in the case of *The Seamy Side*, by Walter Besant and James Rice (Chatto and Windus); and the revival, whatever may be the cause of it, deserves notice, and even laudation. As for the story itself, it fills three volumes, and fills them handsomely. It is, moreover, written with considerable smartness on the whole, in a buoyant style which carries the reader easily along. As a piece of literary composition it is rather below than above the average; its scenes are, for the most part, laid in places suggestive of unromantic cockneydom, though an exception must be made in favour of Bournemouth; its characters are, with a few reservations, either commonplace or ridiculous; and its plot, which seems to betray a not very happy imitation of Mr. Wilkie Collins, is worked out in anything but artistic fashion. The mystery, such as it is, is transparent from the very first, and common-sense revolts from the outset at the poor device which lays the great magnate of the City under the suspicion of a trumpety forgery, causes him to pretend that he has been drowned in the Serpentine, and represents him, an elderly, seasoned, steady, clear-headed, self-respecting, not undignified man of business, as sneaking away like a common thief from what is after all only a somewhat delicate and difficult position, and as condescending to be on terms with his own butler would have disdained with a flippant young relative, a schoolboy of fourteen. The best way to get enjoyment out of the three volumes is to regard them as a long and extravagant burlesque, in which the part of chief buffoon is played by the aforesaid schoolboy of fourteen, who is an Albino, and who adds to the peculiarities of his personal appearance other more or less singular characteristics productive partly of amusement and partly of disgust. He is a malapert, mischievous, slangy, gluttonous youth, with just the generous impulses whereby most boys are inwardly moved; but, though one cannot help admiring his honest indignation, being touched by his affectionate nature, and smiling at his pretensions and antics, he becomes in the long run too irritating for human endurance, and the few occasions, too few, on which he meets with condign chastisement will be hailed by all readers with intense satisfaction. The novel would have been more pleasant reading if the pages had been less cumbered with matters of meat, drink, tobacco-smoke, taverns, and barmaids; the space devoted to such subjects is noticeably large, whereas the importance of those subjects, so far as the main design is concerned, is almost inappreciable. Of course there is an affair of the heart, and what there is of it is pretty enough, though of a very ordinary kind: love, in fact, plays a secondary part throughout. And yet a woman, it can hardly be necessary to say, is at the bottom of the secret which is at the core of the whole business. What that secret is will probably be as good as known to all experienced novel-readers before they reach the end of the first volume, although the authors have taken three volumes to unfold it with due circumstance, if one cannot say with due solemnity: indeed, it is impossible to take a solemn view of the proceedings at any part of the tale, unless it be at the first appearance of the sour old lady who, having to avenge her own wrongs and those of her slighted charms, naturally considers herself to be a "chosen instrument" in the hands of a higher power. But even she, being the most genuinely humorous character in the book, soon loses all her tragicity and becomes nothing if not comical. One is almost sorry, for the sake of the story, that she did not precipitate matters, as so revengeful a woman might have been expected to do, by publishing in the newspapers the information which she supposed herself to possess, and take that obvious way of telling the public:—"Your dead man, whose virtues you extol, was a common cheat and forger. Here are the proofs." Why, it is ten to one that such a creature would at once have written or would have had a communication made to the *Times* to explain that the sudden disappearance of the man who was believed to have been drowned, but whose body could not be recovered, might be accounted for on the ground that he had a charge of forgery hanging over his head. But if people in novels did as it is ten to one they would do in real life, it would not always answer the novelist's purpose.

Local colouring has much to do with the charm of a novel, as readers of *Mademoiselle de Mersac*, by W. E. Norris (Smith, Elder, and Co.), will be faint to admit; for the three volumes undoubtedly derive a considerable portion of their unquestionable attraction from the fact that the scene is laid, at first entirely, and after to a considerable extent, in Algeria and other "foreign parts." The "foreign parts" almost of necessity lead to the introduction of exotics generally, whether persons or things; so that a very refreshing novelty pervades the whole composition, even if there be some want of originality in the fundamental conception and in the successive situations, as well as something a little tedious in the long-winded dialogue, the inordinately expanded letters, and the uneventful shilly-shallying which protracts, without a corresponding augmentation of the interest, the settlement of a very simple love-affair. Excellent are the portraits of M. de Fonville, of Madame de Breuil, and of Madame de Vaublanc, the Legitimists; and their sprightly conversation, with its spice of malice, is extremely amusing. Excellent also is the sketch of Madame de Trémerville, a lady of no birth and of questionable character, wife of such a public functionary as the reign of Napoleon III. is generally believed to have brought to the front; and the tale of her flirtations is very entertainingly told. The best character, however, is undoubtedly M. de Saint-Luc, a sort of reformed rake, whose gradual ennoblement, as he passes through the fire of various trials until he comes out worth his weight in the purest gold, is simply but perhaps all the more touchingly and impressively described. He is made a little after the fashion of Guy Livingstone, but humanised and even Christianised until he resembles rather the Bayard of French history; and one is therefore the more inclined to dissent altogether from the notion that he would at any period of his career have entered into so contemptible and huckster-like a compact as that which is represented to have been suggested by him when he became creditor for a large sum of money won at play from the brother of the unapproachable *Mademoiselle de Mersac*. Indeed, M. de Saint-Luc, the Frenchman, is certainly as superior to Mr. Barrington, the Englishman, as plain-spoken Miss Barrington, regardless of nationality and relationship, declares. That, no doubt, is sufficient to explain why *Mademoiselle de Mersac* prefers the Englishman; it is true that she is herself half-English; but then Miss Barrington is wholly English, and would be likely to be more prepossessed in her own countryman's and relative's favour. The true explanation, then, must be that which the experience of daily life confirms: *Mademoiselle de Mersac*, being human for all her grand qualities, which, by-the-way, she does very little to prove, chooses the less worthy of two suitors, on the principle, or want of principle, on which women nearly always seem to proceed in affairs of the heart, and which must be included among the matters that "no fellow can understand."

But did Mr. Barrington, after all, gain much by the preference? That is a question to which the most satisfactory answer will be obtained from a perusal of the three volumes to the very end. This tale has appeared in the *Cornhill*.

Anybody who happened to open the third volume of *The Story of Barbara*: by the author of "Lady Audley's Secret" (John and Robert Maxwell), at the ninety-eighth page would be able to form a pretty shrewd guess at the central incident of the whole picture and at the sort of colouring adopted to produce an effect. And accident did really cause that particular volume to be opened at that particular page, so that the eye was at once arrested by the following passage:—"Poison: that is to say, secret murder in its basest, most insidious form." And, at the bottom of the page, another passage caught the wandering glance: "Mark would willingly have persuaded himself that Barbara was the guilty one." Moreover, the middle of the page reveals the fact that Barbara is "the fair young wife, whose old lover had come back, with fame and honour, ready to pick up the dropped thread of a broken love-story." So here is evidently the romantic "story of Barbara" in a nutshell; evidently she loved one man and married another, and afterwards was suspected by a certain person named Mark, her enemy, no doubt, of poisoning the husband for the sake of the returned lover. And such, in fact, is the state of the case; but it shall not be disclosed here whether the aforesaid Mark was or was not justified in his horrible suspicion. It may be interesting to murderers and to possible victims to learn that the poison employed, though it will be found efficacious, in the absence of officious interference, and though it has the advantage of doing its work gradually and cumulatively and of baffling inquiry by the symptoms it produces of honest, natural heart-disease, can be very easily and cheaply made by the merest novice from "a bunch of leaves and flowers out of the hedges," and that the best antidote, which will recommend itself highly to certain persons and especially to drunkards, is about half a tumbler of neat brandy. The characters, the incidents, and the sentiments are probably very true to life, but to the commonest kind of life, the life in which there is little or no thought beyond the sordid wants of mankind, what they shall eat, what they shall drink, and wherewithal they shall be clothed. With one exception, however; there is a Major George Leland, who is plainly intended to be a faithful representation of the celebrated Major Hodson, of Hodson's Horse, who figured so prominently in the Indian Mutiny. There is something noble in the conception of his character, something pathetic in the sketch of his career, particularly as regards his relations towards Barbara; and as much might be said of her and her story, if it were not that the comfortable circumstances which she at the last accepts in the spirit of the most ordinary husband-huntress seem to degrade her from the elevation of a romantic heroine to the level of the most prosaic housewife. The novel is written with all the novelist's wonted ease and mastery over the technicalities of story-telling.

MAGAZINES FOR MARCH.

A few magazines which came too late for review in our last issue are here noticed.

Besides the continuation of Mrs. Linton's powerful and clever, but not very agreeable, "Rebel of the Family," *Temple Bar* claims attention by an analysis of a recent Spanish novel by Señor Perez Galdos and a retrospective review of Martin Sherlock's letters from the Continent a century ago.

The most important contribution to the *Gentleman's Magazine* is the continuation of Mr. Francillon's "Queen Cophetua," which promises to rank among his best stories. Dr. Richardson's essay on "Health through Education" contains many useful remarks on the mischief of indiscriminate instruction in disregard of the special tastes and capacities of the pupil; the effect of which wholesome teaching, however, is somewhat impaired by the writer's habitual overstatement of his case. There are also another of Dr. Wilson's pleasant chapters on the philosophy of animal evolution, and an entertaining vision of the proceedings of the House of Commons in Elysium, which would, however, have been all the better without a rather spiteful attack on a late member, who certainly excited many antipathies, Mr. Roebuck.

The chief attraction of *Belgravia* is Mr. Payn's bright and amusing "Confidential Agent." Mr. Hunt's "Leaden Casket" is equally clever, but too full of sarcastic criticism to be equally agreeable. Mr. J. H. McCarthy's "How Jack Harris Became an Aesthetic" is a most amusing extravaganza, perhaps a trifle too farcical.

There is not much to say about *Time*, except a word of admiration for the powerful conception of a consummate villain which is being worked out in "The Seamy Side." The late Father Oakley's Oxford reminiscences might have been very interesting if the writer had not erred so much on the side of discretion that one hardly sees why he should have attempted to record anything at all. Mr. Seymour's "Witch of the Cordilleras" is a wild, striking story.

The subject of the photograph and memoir in this month's *University Magazine*, Mr. John Hullah, is one of the most generally appreciated of public benefactors. Among the most noticeable of the other contributions may be named "A Ray from the Sphere of Plato," with many interesting parallels between Plato and other great teachers; "The Soul and the Stars," an attempt to apply the ancient doctrine of planetary influence to psychology; and No. 2 of the thoughtful series of "Unscientific Dialogues."

In *London Society* we have, as usual, to chronicle the satisfactory progress of Miss Thomas's "Violin-Player" and Mrs. Riddell's "Mystery in Palace Gardens." There is also an amusing farcical story entitled "Telegraphy Extraordinary."

In *Home* the story of "Great Heart," which now has the place of honour assigned to it, takes firmer hold on the attention; and "Daisies and Buttercups" maintains the even tenor of its way, though we pine for the presence of the gentle retired clerk whose acquaintance we made in the earlier stages of the story. Then we have the continuation of a stirring tale, "Une Nichee de Gentilshommes," a "Whale Yarn," and some pleasant verses.

The *Theatre* is generally entertaining, and has papers upon dramatic criticism in newspapers, the abolition of the pit, and other subjects of especial interest to the theatrical profession.

The *Antiquary* continues Dr. Hayman's history of Tewkesbury Abbey, and contains articles on ancient British pottery, the Civil War in Herefordshire, and other topics interesting to archaeologists.

The Italian Benevolent Society and the French Hospital, which have been established for the purpose of affording relief to the large class of distressed foreigners in London, combined together on Tuesday evening in giving a fancy-dress ball for the benefit of the funds of the two institutions. The efforts of the committee, with Signor Manfredo Negro as their president, in disposing of the tickets had been liberally responded to by those interested in the welfare of the societies, and upwards of 700 persons assembled in the large hall of the Freemasons' Tavern, where the ball was held.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

In spite of the formidable rivalry of Sandown and Kempton, Croydon holds its own bravely, and the lessees reaped a grand harvest of "the splendid shilling" last Wednesday week, when an immense company mustered to witness the decision of the Grand International Hurdle-Race. Crawler, who must be almost as old as Oxonian—that veteran among veterans—had no trouble in beating the pair opposed to him in a Hunters' Steeplechase; and then a field of five turned out for the United Kingdom Steeplechase. Prior to the race, Mr. James Gordon Bennett, the proprietor of the *New York Herald*, who is forming a large stud, which will be managed by Sir William Call, gave £1000 for Latchkey (11 st. 9 lb.), and he started a warm favourite. Levitt rode him magnificently; but, in spite of receiving every possible assistance from his jockey, he succumbed by a head to Militant (11 st. 12 lb.), the pair being right away from the rest of the field. The accident to Thornfield (10 st. 12 lb.), exaggerated accounts of which were current everywhere on the previous day, proved to be of a very slight nature, and, before the start, odds of 6 to 4 were accepted freely. Advance (12 st. 3 lb.) receded to 10 to 1, as the heavy state of the ground was known to be much against him, and, in the race, nothing had the smallest chance with the favourite, who cantered home at his leisure from Fabius (10 st. 3 lb.), and Tentergate (10 st. 3 lb.). Perhaps Harbinger (11 st. 2 lb.) was really second best, and, in his new vocation, may possibly atone for a sadly disappointing career on the flat. The Bromley and West Somerset Meetings, which were brought off on the Thursday and Friday, were of purely local interest. On Saturday, the Household Brigade Military Meeting took place at Sandown Park. The Prince and Princess of Wales and a very fashionable assemblage were present, but the sport, though good enough of its kind, needs no comment.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Warwickshire Hounds and owners of coverts—Sir Charles Mordaunt presiding—Lord Willoughby de Broke agreed to hunt the country next season four days a week from Nov. 1 to April 1, the sum of £1800 being guaranteed to him for that purpose. With a subscription of £1100 per annum, the Suffolk Hunt has been taken by Mr. Edward Walter Greene, as master.

We suppose we must accept the dictum that "there is nothing new under the sun," though we never previously remember to have seen a work on training by a trainer. Be this as it may, the handsome book written by Mr. William Day, of Woodyates, and published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, will be read with the deepest interest by thousands of lovers of the turf and everything connected with it. Mr. Day has written in most comprehensive style, dealing, amongst other matters, with training stables, condition, breaking, preparation, the purchase of yearlings, trials, jockeys, weights and distances, betting, practicable reforms, &c. Indeed, just as after seeing Cook or Mitchell make a hundred consecutive spot hazards one feels quite able to "go and do likewise," so the reader of this book lays it down with the conviction that he only requires a horse and training-ground to enable him to prepare a winner of the Derby. Mr. Day is very severe on lightweight jockeys, and we are quite at one with him in his earnest plea that the weights in all handicaps should be raised, and that they should never begin below 7 st., instead of at 5 st. 7 lb., as at present. To our mind, he is not so happy when he treats of betting, and his laudation of the nomination system in vogue at coursing is unfortunately timed, as there have lately been a good many scandals in connection with the Waterloo Cup, which have arisen solely through this same system. The reminiscences and illustrations, taken from turf history, are very interesting, but not always strictly correct; for instance, in quoting cases of mysterious alteration in form, the author writes:—"Lastly, there is Gamos. . . She is, at Bath, beaten so easily in the very worst of company that her jockey has to pull her up. Yet in the next week, in the hands of the very same jockey, she wins the Oaks!" To the best of our remembrance, "the very worst of company" included Macgregor, in all probability the best, as he undoubtedly was the most highly-tried, horse of the present century. After all, however, this, and one or two similar slips of the pen, are very venial errors, and with a confession of regret that Mr. Day has revealed nothing of the inner life of that never-to-be-forgotten mystery, "66 to 1, Mail Train," we can give the work our warmest commendation. The same publishers have produced a large volume of "Sketches in the Hunting-Field," by Mr. Alfred Watson. Most of them have already appeared in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* and the *Standard*, and when we have said that the book is copiously illustrated by Mr. John Sturgess, it needs no further recommendation to every lover of hunting.

Though the end of the coursing season is fast approaching, two very important meetings took place last week. At the South Lancashire (Southport) Champion Meeting the Scarisbrick Cup, as usual, obtained the full complement of 128 dogs, including several who had performed in the Waterloo Cup. Mr. Hedley was not well enough to judge, and his place was taken by Mr. Lindsay, who did very well until the third tie, when he made a great mistake in giving the course between Templar and Hector to the former. This proved a cruel misfortune to the Earl of Haddington,

as, in the fifth tie, Templar defeated his other representative, Herzegovina, and then, in his turn, succumbed to Mr. Mather's Meols Water, by Lord of Avon—Mary Hill, who thus won the valuable prize, and credited Mr. Mather, who is generally lucky at Southport, with his third Scarisbrick Cup. The Kilmorey Cup, for sixty-four of all ages, was the great attraction of the North of Ireland Union Meeting, and again Lord Haddington, who ran Hornpipe and Halcyon, looked very dangerous. Ultimately, however, Hornpipe was put out by Dorinda in the third tie, after an undecided; and in the final spin the Irish representative, who is by Gone—Old Still, beat Halcyon. Hares were very scarce on the final day; but, taken altogether, the meeting was thoroughly successful; and Mr. Wentworth and Hoystead acquitted themselves well as judge and slipper respectively.

We shall give the result of the great billiard tournament at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, next week. At present W. Mitchell (scratch) and F. Bennett (100 points start) appear to have the best chances of success.

At the same place, on Monday morning, Captain Matthew Webb, the hero of the Channel, began a sixty hours' swim; and, as he seems quite as much at home in the water as the previous occupants of his tank, the white whale and the seals, we have little doubt that he will accomplish the feat.

There was launched on Wednesday from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Elder and Co., Glasgow, a paddle despatch-boat for the Admiralty. The Niger, as she is named, is 160 feet long, and her engines indicate 480-horse power. She is to be armed with bow and stern chasers and four broadside guns, and is iron framed and steel plated.

Among the books of reference for information respecting persons of note in the society of our day, the volume of "Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage, and Titles of Courtesy" is one of especial usefulness. It gives information only concerning persons now living, not their ancestors or predecessors, or their family pedigrees, which are to be found in "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage." But the collateral living branches of each noble or titled family are precisely recorded in this work. All particulars of birth, marriage, residence, education, office, profession, or occupation, clubs, and other social or honorary distinctions are correctly set down. With all this will be found a large amount of combined information respecting the public services and professions, as well as instructions for addressing persons of rank, and other conventional points of style. The volume is handsomely bound in red and gold, with heraldic blazonry.

The learned and sprightly dissertations of Mr. Henry Vizetelly upon the agreeable topics of vintages and wine-making continue to form a series of pleasant and instructive little volumes. "Facts about Port and Madeira," just published by Messrs. Ward and Lock, will stand beside this author's "Facts about Sherry," and his "Facts about Champagne and other Sparkling Wines." The substance of this small book was published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* above two years ago, when Mr. Vizetelly made a tour in Portugal, and visited the islands of Madeira and Teneriffe, in quest of special knowledge upon the subject. Besides the technical, scientific, and commercial information, to be acquired from his account of the vineyards and of the manufacture of wines, and the important trade in this article, he describes each foreign country and its people in a picturesque and lively style. We should recommend the study of his book as an excellent source of suitable anecdotes for after-dinner talk; but it has also real and practical usefulness for buyers and sellers of wine. It is adorned with a hundred pretty illustrations drawn by his son, Mr. Ernest Vizetelly, who accompanied him in these travels. Two other volumes are announced to be forthcoming, one treats of "Claret and Burgundy," the other of "Hock and Moselle." There is a more general account of "The Wines of the World," by Mr. Vizetelly, giving their classification and typical characters; so that he seems to have an encyclopædic acquaintance with the whole subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- BENTLEY:
No Relation. By Malot. 3 vols.
BOUVE:
The Secret of a Good Memory. By J. Mortimer-Granville. London in 1880. With Views. By Herbert Fry.
CASSELL, PETER, and GALPIN:
With the Armies of the Balkans and at Gallipoli in 1877-1878. By Lieut.-Colonel Fife-Cookson. Fifth and Cheap Edition.
CHAPMAN and HALL:
An Australian Heroine. By R. Murray Prior. 3 vols.
CHURCH of ENGLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE:
Bethlehem to Olivet; a Course of Lessons on the Life of Jesus Christ. By John Palmer.
HAMILTON, ADAMS, and CO.:
Quaker Anecdotes. Edited by Richard Pike.
HAUGHTON:
George Smith of Coalville. A Chapter in Philanthropy.
LONGMANS:
The Spirit and the Muse, containing Original Hymns and Other Poems, with Translations from the Odes of Horace. By Sir Philip Perring, Bart. Second Edition, Enlarged.
TINSLEY BROTHERS:
Sealed by a Kiss. By Jean Middlemass. 3 vols.
An Artful Widow. By Vernon St. Clair. 3 vols.
My Land of Beulah and Other Stories. By Mrs. Leith-Adams. 3 vols.
Days and Nights in London; or, Studies in Black and Grey. By J. Ewing Ritchie.
MARCUS WARD:
The New Plutarch: Joan of Arc, "The Maid." By Janet Tuckey.

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FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

SOCIETY OF LADY ARTISTS.

There is a decided improvement in the exhibition of this society, which opened on Monday last in Great Marlborough-street. Although some of our most distinguished lady artists still prefer to exhibit (as they may safely do) where there is no distinction of sex, and notwithstanding that the present collection contains the large number of over 700 items, yet the average of merit is distinctly higher than last year. Moreover, the improvement is chiefly discernible where it might least be expected—in the more difficult medium of oil. The ladies are evidently pursuing art less in an amateur spirit and with more earnestness. Several of them have won their way into the Academy schools, and, doubtless, ere long we shall have lady Royal Academicians. Meanwhile, this society is doing good service by its classes for teaching and by its exhibitions, and it is gratifying to observe that the latter are receiving a fair measure of public support.

Among the oil-pictures, the most ambitious in aim, as also the most considerable in achievement, is "Dives and Lazarus" (303), by Miss Teresa Thornycroft. It is a composition of architecture and figures after the manner of Paul Veronese, ingeniously disposed so that we see the rich man and his friends in sumptuous attire feasting on an upper plane, and the poor beggar almost devoid of clothing lying at the foot of steps below. The drawing and foreshortening of the aged figure of Lazarus evinces serious study, and altogether the work, coming from a young and almost unknown artist, is one of high promise. The same painter has two small pictures—one of a rustic couple too much intent apparently on love-making than on the pail they carry between them, the contents of which, just brought from a remorseful-looking cow, they are spilling—amusingly entitled "The Milky Way" (606); the other of a strapping French *paysanne* laden with "Bread and Butter" (608). Much artistic originality distinguishes two pictures by Miss Hilda Montalba. No. 283, a female half-length study, the face in shadow, is remarkable for its harmony of low-toned tertiary hues; and "A Girl Fishing" (282) is suggestive of a beautiful effect of pale yellowish spring sky. A "Portrait of a Bavarian Peasant" (223), and "Broken Hearted" (324), a mother with her face buried in her hands beside the bed of her dead child, by Theresa Schwartz, are vigorously painted by an artist evidently well trained. "A Venetian Girl" (274) and "A Little Visitor" are very pleasing and effectively painted single-figure subjects by Mary Backhouse. Mrs. Jopling sends several agreeable portraits of children. Very well worth notice also are the group of peaches, grapes, &c. (269), by Miss E. H. Stannard; the studies of flowers for decorative panels by Mrs. A. Lukis Guérin; "Autumn" (310) and "Landscape—Thüringen" (713), by Fanny Assenbaum; "Bas Meudon" (214), by Sophia Beale; "German Peasant-Girl coming from Church" (245), by Giordana Swift; "The Penny Whistle" (602), by Linnie Watt, who likewise contributes a good painting on china (650); a study by Louise Starr, of a lady's back, excellently painted, and such a nice back in itself that we may well ejaculate, in the words of the title, "Turn, lady, turn thy face" (624); "An Exploring Party [i.e., geese] at Haddon Hall" (258), by Emily M. Merrick; "Garden of the Negroni Villa, Rome" (257), by Lady Gordon; "Scene on the Danish Coast near Elsinore" (292), by Edith Murray; and other contributions in oil by Emily Annie Cook, Catherine Charlton, Edith Murray, Eliza Turck, E. S. Scannell, Bertha Newcombe, F. Claxton, L. Burgess Swift, and Mabel Green.

In the water-colour section the exhibition is enriched, as usual, by several of Miss Louise Rayner's picturesque and animated views of old English towns and buildings, in which, by-the-way, body-colour is used with rare skill. One of the most interesting of these is Chaucer's inn, "The Tabard, Southwark, previous to the Alterations in 1875" (426). There are, besides, views of "The Market-Place, Selby" (430), "The Shambles, York" (172), and "Walmgate Bar, York" (187), by the same facile pencil; and also similar subjects by Margaret Rayner. For drawing, modelling, colouring, and direct unflinching dexterity of handling there is scarcely anything here to compare with Miss Beresford's "Italian Peasant" (491) carrying heads of *gran turco*, or maize. No. 182 and others by the same artist are good, but not so excellent as this. Miss Clara Montalba is represented only by a small Venetian study (539). Several ladies—as, for instance, Maria Gastineau, Mrs. Paul Nafel, Maud Nafel, Victoria Hine (*née* Colkett), and Jane Deakin—recall the styles of the male artists whose surnames they respectively bear. "Pitlochrie on the Tummel" (429) is a large drawing, with a remarkable effect of light, by Baroness Helga von Cramm. Several foreign views of considerable merit are contributed by Mrs. Marable. We have also to commend the "Daydreams" (29), by Elizabeth Naughten; "Neglected" (57), by Mary Eley; "Exotics" (97), by Blanche Macarthur; "Strolling Players" (109), by Helen Thornycroft; "The Dying Year" (114), delicate in sentiment as in colour, by Mary Forster; "A Devon Lane" (119), by Marian Edwards; "Ben Nevis" (155), by Miss Freeman Kempson; "Hagar" (197), a characteristic head, fine in tone, by Jennie Moore; "Spring Time" (374), a pretty, small drawing, in the manner of F. Walker, by Alice Squire; "The Rule of Three it Puzzles Me" (407), by Caroline Paterson; several drawings by Grace H. Hastie; "Nurse's Baby" (452), presenting promise in the telling of the story; by Helena J. Maguire; "Byzantine Court, Crystal Palace" (485), by Emma J. Jennings; and "Cornish Sea" (611), by Mrs. Val Bromley. Besides the fruit composition by Miss Stannard, already mentioned, there are numerous creditable still-life pieces by Emma Walter, and many other contributors, which we have not space to mention. Lastly, among the paintings on china there are admirable heads by Rebecca Coleman.

The private view of the exhibition of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall East, takes place to-day. The exhibition will open to the public on Monday next.

The sixteenth annual exhibition of cabinet pictures by artists of the British and Foreign Schools will be opened at Thomas McLean's Gallery on Monday, March 22.

The Spring Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings at the Royal Pavilion Gallery, Brighton, opened on Monday last.

A loan exhibition of the Yorkshire Fine-Art Society will be opened at Leeds on May 1.

Several of the finest works of the late Mr. Poole, from the collection of Mr. David Price and other owners, were exhibited at the meeting of the Graphic Society on Wednesday last at University College, Gower-street.

The plans of the building for the Ecclesiastical Art-Exhibition, to be erected on the Victoria Embankment, are prepared. The design, by Mr. J. R. Seddon, resembles in general effect similar structures for like purposes, but the details have been appropriately and ingeniously Gothicised. The exhibition promises to be large and important.

The sale of the magnificent contents of the Palace of San Donato, the property of Prince Demidoff, commences on Monday next. The collection is extraordinarily rich in *objets d'art* of many kinds.

PARLIAMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DISSOLUTION.

The serene calm of the House of Lords was not to be disturbed on Monday by the Prime Minister's quiet and brief announcement that as soon as possible after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had introduced his financial statement "Her Majesty, on the advice of her Ministers, will dissolve the present Parliament."

In the House of Commons the unexpected news, communicated about the same time by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, occasioned great excitement. Directly hon. members learnt that the General Election would take place at Easter there was such a rush to the telegraph office that the place was besieged for some time; and we understand that 720 telegrams were dispatched during Monday evening.

Sir Stafford Northcote had, apparently, caught the leaders of the Opposition napping. Neither the Marquis of Hartington nor Mr. Gladstone was in his place, nor was Mr. Bright, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his statement. Only the previous Thursday, it may be remarked, the Leader of the House had lulled hon. members into a sense of temporary security by suggesting that the Easter vacation might begin on Thursday, the 25th inst., and end on the Monday week following. The decision to dissolve at Easter must, therefore, have been come to at the Cabinet Council held on Saturday or Monday. Be that as it may, the members on the Opposition benches assumed a cheerfulness, if they felt it not, and cheered the Chancellor of the Exchequer's somewhat laboured declaration that the Ministerial measures for relieving Irish Distress having been sanctioned in both Houses, the Government had come to the conclusion that Easter would be the most convenient time for the General Election to take place. The right hon. Baronet added, "The effect of that will be that Parliament can meet again by the beginning of May, and probably the new House would be in working order in the course of the first week in May." The way in which the remaining business of the Government would be proceeded with was then pointed out. The Budget was promised on Thursday. Although the bill for the distribution of the vacant seats would have to be abandoned, the Parliamentary Elections Bill might still be proceeded with, and Sir Charles Dilke's question regarding the conveyance of voters taken up also.

On Mr. Forster's capable shoulders did the functions of the Leader of the Opposition devolve for the nonce. The right hon. member briefly expressed his satisfaction at the announcement; and it was left to Sir Charles Dilke airily to twit the Government by mentioning the Water Bill as being not altogether disassociated with the dissolution. Whereupon Mr. Cross, with some asperity, made answer that it "was never the intention of the Government, in any form or shape, to force any bargain upon the public."

Later, the Chancellor of the Exchequer named the 23rd inst. as the date on which the House might be able to rise.

LORDS.

The Ministerial bills for the relief of the distress in Ireland, the introduction of which was avowedly the main reason for calling Parliament together, did not reach the stage of being ready for the Royal Assent without causing discussion at each available opportunity. Lord Emly yesterday week, for example, seized the occasion of bringing up the report of amendments to earnestly advise the Government to appoint well-known and competent men to administer the funds; but his Lordship could get from the Duke of Richmond nothing more satisfactory than a defence of the existing machinery for the bestowal of relief. Lord Orammore and Browne on Monday favoured the House with a discourse on Ireland from the landlords' point of view; and the Distress Bill was then passed.

Lord Stratheden and Campbell on Monday expressed a desire to reopen the inexhaustible Eastern Question; but complied with the suggestion of the Earl of Beaconsfield to postpone his motion until the return of the Marquis of Salisbury to his place.

Some of the immediate consequences of the forthcoming Dissolution were made known on Tuesday. Lord Bury informed their Lordships that the General Election would render it unlawful for the Easter Monday Volunteer Review to take place; but the Under-Secretary for War accorded volunteers the consolation that the review might be held at Brighton at Whitsuntide instead. The Lord Chancellor then enlightened Earl Granville on some dubious points in the Settled Land Bill, which was passed through Committee, with the Conveyancing Bill, as a matter of form, in order that certain amendments might be inserted, but not with any idea, as the noble Earl on the woolsack said, that either measure would become law in the present Parliament.

Lord Houghton was unsuccessful in an endeavour to prevail upon the Government to readmit reporters to executions, Earl Beauchamp justifying the restrictions the Sheriffs put upon the representatives of the Press on the plea that harm might be done by the publication on the part of an indiscreet reporter of a sensational account of an execution. Lord Sidmouth, Earl Fortescue, and Viscount Cranbrook also objected to Lord Houghton's motion; but Lord Aberdeen and the Earl of Kimberley were both of opinion, with Lord Houghton, that the Home Secretary ought to make some concession to public feeling in the matter.

Lord Stratheden and Campbell had a portentous notice on the paper for Thursday threatening to review the whole Eastern Question from the year 1874, but the noble Lord spared the House the infliction for the time being; and, when a series of bills had been advanced a stage, Lord Redesdale moved that their Lordships should adjourn.

COMMONS.

One hon. member in particular may with reason have deemed himself fortunate in having secured an evening prior to that selected for the discharge of the Ministerial thunderbolt. None of the distraction occasioned by an impending Dissolution of Parliament prevailed yesterday week, when Sir Wilfrid Lawson brought forward his annual motion, which has taken the place of the "Permissive" resolution. There had been, it is true, at the opening of the sitting, some rhetorical lightning in the air. Mr. Cross, for instance, in his hardest manner, had made quite a little speech in defending, while answering Mr. Hibbert, the existing regulations respecting the admission of reporters to witness executions. Whereupon Mr. Bright (having seemingly gained renewed strength from his momentary visit to the Radical benches on the "extreme left" the previous evening) sprang to his feet, and neatly put in a few telling sentences on behalf of his friend Mr. Hibbert. To be in order, Mr. Bright moved the adjournment, and pungently pointed out the inconvenience of the Home Secretary's course in sheltering himself in this matter behind a High Sheriff, who might be anybody or nobody. Mr. Cross took upon himself to rebuke Mr. Bright for being out of order, but the right hon. gentleman only elicited a remonstrance from the Marquis of Hartington, and a calm pouring of oil on the troubled waters from Mr. Gladstone, of all members in the House.

Even in the face of this lively preface, Sir Wilfrid Lawson

managed to maintain his reputation as a witty speaker in asking the House to agree to the subjoined resolution:—

That, inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of Licensing the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves, who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system, by some efficient measure of local option.

The debate was continued by Mr. Burt, who seconded the motion in an earnest speech; and by Mr. Gladstone, who could not see how the plan of "local option" could be carried out without injustice to licensed victuallers, the due compensation of whom ought to have been mentioned in the resolution. The right hon. gentleman rather inclined to a trial of Mr. Chamberlain's modification of the Gothenburg system, and hoped the Government would legislate on the basis of the report of the Lords' Committee on the question. Mr. Bright, being in favour of handing over the licensing of public-houses to corporations in towns, spoke for the resolution, but intimated that he had a plan of his own to offer at the right time for the fair solution of the problem. There was an obvious reason why Mr. E. Clarke, in his effective maiden speech, should rest satisfied with the existing order of things, inasmuch as the junior member for Southwark was mainly indebted to the united support of the licensed victuallers of the borough for his triumphant return. The open nature of the question, however, was shown by the Marquis of Hartington's assertion that he should vote against Sir Wilfrid Lawson; and the remarkable reticence of the Ministry on this delicate subject was exemplified by the fact that Mr. Cross was the only Minister who spoke during the evening. It needs not to be said that the Home Secretary was adverse to what he termed "an unsatisfactory and mystifying resolution," which was in the end negatived by 218 to 134 votes—a majority of 114 against Sir Wilfrid.

The First Lord of the Admiralty (thanks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's unexpected announcement) had a comparatively quiet time of it on Monday evening. Mr. W. H. Smith was not, however, allowed to enter into a consideration of the Navy Estimates before Captain Pim, backed by Sir J. Hay, had sweepingly condemned the present administration of the Navy. Mr. Childers (possibly with the idea, so said Mr. Bentinck, that he might after Easter occupy the seat of Mr. Smith) deprecated a prolongation of the discussion; and Captain Pim at length deigned to withdraw his rather superfluous motion.

When Mr. Smith did rise to address hon. members from his vantage point on the Ministerial quarter-deck, so to speak, the right hon. gentlemen found no difficulty in presenting a plain, straightforward account of the state of the Navy before his listeners. The First Lord began by saying that the Estimates, though adequate for our wants, would be found rather less than those of last year, when some £10,550,000 had been spent upon the Navy, irrespective of the Vote of Credit for the South African transports. He now moved the vote of 58,000 men and boys for the Navy, which he vindicated from the aspersions freely cast against the service by Captain Pim, adding that "there are not a finer body of men in existence than our sailors." It was rather a pity there was not a larger attendance of members to appreciate a sentiment worthy of William in Douglas Jerrold's "Black-Eyed Susan." But hon. members were busy at the telegraph-wires. So, uncheered, had Mr. Smith to wade through his long exposition till he came to the close, when a pretty cordial round of "hear, hear!" greeted him. Mr. E. J. Reed then brought his broadside to bear upon the Admiralty, which he accused of not having completed a single man-of-war of the Government's own origination. Mr. Lefevre joined suit in the complaint that the Ministerial programme of ironclad shipbuilding had not been carried out. But Mr. Smith replied at the end of the discussion that it was the appointment of Mr. Reed's own Committee which had delayed the completion of H.M.S. *Inflexible*, *Ajax*, and *Agamemnon*. The vote for sailors and marines was then agreed to, and so were votes of £680,000 on account of wages, £253,381 for clothing, £44,821 for the Admiralty Office, &c.

Lord Sandon on Tuesday had a fresh opportunity of exhibiting the respect which the Board of Trade has tardily come to pay to Mr. Pim's questions on maritime matters. Replying to Mr. Burt (who was the questioner on behalf of the hon. member for Derby), the President of the Board of Trade, who rather revels in his Ministerial answers from an elocutionary point of view, explained, with a clearness of articulation worthy a star at a "penny reading," that a ship named the *Strela* was not lost, but had gone before—to an Antwerp dry dock; and further informed the House that the ship Harter had incurred a penalty of £5 for being "so loaded as to submerge in salt water the centre of the disc." Lord Sandon added that he had telegraphed to New York for information respecting the loss of the Hindoo, whose survivors had landed at that port; and his Lordship reminded railway companies that their adoption of continuous brakes had not been as general as he could have wished.

Mr. Cross next had to endure a fresh series of queries as to the Government Water Bill. The Home Secretary could not oblige Mr. Samuelson with any reports or estimates of the competent engineers who had inquired into the matter; but would have been prepared to produce them had the bill gone into Committee. Then, with regard to Mr. Alderman Cotton's legitimate curiosity as to the position of the Water Bill, the right hon. gentleman could not be got to say definitively whether it had been dropped, but declared "that at present the presumption is that the public are not willing to pay the price demanded, and at which the companies are willing to sell." Mr. Goschen thereupon wished to know if the companies would be prevented from further raising their rates in order to drive a harder bargain; but Mr. Cross put off his answer to another day.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, to clear up a misunderstanding, informed Mr. Chamberlain he was still of opinion that the Dissolution would take place on March 23, and the writs would be issued on the 24th inst.

Sir J. McKenna's application for a Select Committee to inquire into the alleged disparity of the incidence of taxation as being unfair to Ireland caused some debate; but the motion was negatived by 58 to 36 votes. Sir Edward Watkin closely followed Mr. Raikes during his speech respecting compensation to railway servants injured in the performance of their duty. The Chairman of Committees moved a resolution to the effect that the House was of opinion that due compensation should be awarded to this useful class of public servants. But Sir Edward Watkin met the motion with an amendment, declaring, rather diffusely, that it was expedient the funds for the purpose in question should be supplied by "both the capitalist and the workman," and in "just proportions." In the end, the House was counted out shortly after ten o'clock.

On Wednesday the impending Dissolution caused a necessary measure to go the way of all flesh. This was the Inventors' Patents Bill of Mr. Anderson, who with-

drew it at the solicitation of the Attorney-General, the hon. and learned member having admitted its importance and declared that the Government ought to introduce a bill on the subject in the next Parliament. The order for the second reading of Mr. Plunket's Irish Church Act Amendment Bill was also discharged; and the Commons Act Amendment Bill met the same fate; but the Municipal Qualification Bill passed through Committee. In Supply, Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson moved a vote of credit of £1,225,000 for the war in South Africa, but progress was reported ere the vote could be agreed to. The Metropolitan Valuation Act Amendment Bill was then passed through Committee. In Committee of Ways and Means, £8,372,177 was voted for the service of the year. Thereafter the Attorney-General secured the first reading of his bill to amend the Acts relating to corrupt practices at elections, one of the provisions of which proposes to legalise the conveyance of voters to the poll; and ere the adjournment, Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay brought in the Army Discipline Act Continuance Bill.

THE BUDGET.

A desultory conversation, not altogether encouraging to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, sprang up on Thursday, and delayed the introduction of the Budget. Mr. Mundella desired to be informed as to the cost of bringing the Indian troops to Malta; but it appeared a matter of difficulty to give the exact figures, as the entire sum had not yet been stated by the Indian authorities. The upshot of a somewhat warm discussion, to start which Mr. Mundella moved the adjournment, was that Mr. Stanhope could not be prevailed upon to budge from the statement that £470,000 was the approximate cost, though Mr. Chamberlain challenged the Under-Secretary to deny that the freight alone was £750,000. The only other question of general interest was put by Mr. Goschen, in reply to whom Mr. Cross, in a deferential tone, virtually said that, should the Water Supply Bill come before the Government again, no great increase of the water rates would be sanctioned.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was warmly cheered from the Ministerial side on rising to make his financial statement; and it was observed that Mr. Gladstone (to whom a red rose in his button-hole lent a festive appearance) industriously took notes during the speech of the right hon. Baronet. Sir Stafford Northcote first alluded to the inconvenience of introducing the Budget before the close of the financial year, but explained that great pains had been taken to prepare the Estimates cautiously and carefully. It would have led to a clearer understanding of the Chancellor's figures had he arranged his papers with equal care. As it was, little as there really was to explain, the exposition was so protracted and involved that one right hon. gentleman on the front Opposition, after vainly striving to stifle his yawns, had to beat a retreat ere the end of the speech was gained. The essential figures may be placed before the reader in a small compass. The Chancellor of the Exchequer last year estimated the receipts at £83,550,000 and the expenditure at £81,153,000. He was sorry to say he was disappointed in the revenue, which had not come up to the estimate by £2,195,000, added to a deficit of £1,161,000 accruing in consequence of a vote of credit for three millions taken during the year, that made a deficit of £3,356,000. It was a consolation to think that all the money voted in supplementary estimates had not been expended. Many hon. gentlemen complained of supplementary estimates, but they were the price we paid for having "a scientific financial system." They were a matter of necessity, and were often balanced by savings on votes. They included the amount first voted, together with £1,255,000, for the South African war. He believed that they had now arrived at the end of that expenditure. The cases of the South African and Abyssinian wars were not parallel, because the accounts of the Abyssinian war had to be made up through India, whilst in the present case everything had been expended by our own officers. The Treasury officers who were sent out to the Cape had produced a highly creditable and very interesting report, and through their exertions the Government were able to give with some accuracy the total cost of the Zulu war. From first to last it had been £5,138,000, most of the charge having been borne by the Imperial Government. As to the repayment by the colonists, that question was still a matter of correspondence. Provision for the £5,138,000 had been chiefly made by two votes of credit, which were used to make up the deficiency on the ordinary Army and Navy votes. £315,000 had been provided out of ordinary votes. Consequently the votes of credit were not exhausted, and, after paying the whole cost of the Zulu War, £117,000 remained to the good. Then, the House would ask, what was the meaning of the large supplementary vote they had just passed. Practically, £817,000 out of it was merely a re-vote of money granted, but not expended, last year, because a vote of credit could only be expended in the same year. As to the remainder, the expedition into Griqualand West cost £220,000, and the expedition against Secoceni was estimated to cost £300,000, which was a very full estimate. The general result of all these figures was this—the total amount of the Supplementary Estimates this year was £1,783,000, but the savings on the ordinary estimates were £1,817,000. The result, therefore, although it was bad, was not so bad as it looked at first—it was a deficit of £3,345,000. Customs were estimated to show a decrease of £700,000, mainly owing to spirits; Excise a falling off of £1,970,000. The total falling of revenue from spirits was about one million and a half, which he attributed partly to a failure of means on the part of the working-classes and partly to an improvement in the habits of the people. Tea and coffee had not fallen off at all. Malt showed a decrease of £913,000, which was partly due to the badness of the barley harvest. There was an increase in probate and legacy stamps of £400,000, and a slight falling off in other classes of stamps. The income tax realised £50,000 less than the estimate; the Post Office £50,000 more, and the telegraphs £80,000 more. The Estimates for the ensuing year showed a surplus of £24,000, or practically an equilibrium; but, reckoning the increased probate duties to be received under a bill now before the House, and a certain amount receivable in the form of income tax from co-operative trade societies, there would be a surplus of upwards £800,000. At present only the Civil Service Supply Association paid income tax, but it had been decided to charge the others. Dealing now with the accumulated deficits of past years, there were nearly eight millions to be provided for, the annual interest upon which would be about £284,000. A certain proportion was already with in the form of life annuities and the net increase in the debt was really £6014. The funded debt now stood at £708,441,000, unfunded at £28,500,000, and the total debt was £775,202,000, showing a diminution since March 1, 1879, in spite of war expenses, of £2,857,000. As to the war expenditure, the Russo-Turkish war preparations cost £6,125,000, which, added to the cost of the Zulu war, made a total of £12,285,000, of which upwards of eight millions had been covered by Exchequer Bonds. He proposed to renew the Exchequer Bonds for some time, but to take six out of the eight millions of deficit, and to provide for its extinction by creating a fresh series of terminable annuities, lasting until

1885. Under the present arrangements, with regard to the debt, a fixed sum of £28,000,000 was provided every year to pay the interest of the debt. On that account there was a surplus called the New Sinking Fund, now amounting to £681,000. An annuity of £1,400,000 a year would be sufficient to cancel the six millions of debt by the end of 1885. He proposed to appropriate the amount of the new Sinking Fund, and to add £800,000 for the purpose—i.e., to make the provision for debt £28,800,000 instead of £28,000,000 for five years. The right hon. gentleman read the alterations which this proposal would necessitate in the balance-sheet, and said it would bring the estimated expenditure of 1880-1 up to £82,075,972, and the revenue, including £700,000 from the alteration in the probate duties, to £82,260,000. The result would be that, after providing for the cancelling of six millions of debt, there would be a surplus of £178,000. He hoped better times would soon come, and meanwhile he claimed that the Government proposals would not press hardly on the country. His estimates were most cautiously framed, and he commended them with confidence to the House. The right hon. Baronet sat down at seven o'clock, and was immediately followed by Mr. Gladstone, who was received with loud and prolonged cheers from the Liberal benches, but who postponed any detailed criticism till Monday.

THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

*LORD BEACONSFIELD'S MANIFESTO.

The announcement of the Dissolution of Parliament which was made in both Houses on Monday was promptly followed by the publication of a letter by the Earl of Beaconsfield to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as follows:—

10, Downing-street, March 8, 1880.

My Lord Duke,—The measures respecting the state of Ireland which her Majesty's Government so anxiously considered with your Excellency, and in which they were much aided by your advice and authority, are now about to be submitted for the Royal assent, and it is at length in the power of the Ministers to advise the Queen to recur to the sense of her people. The arts of agitators, which represented that England, instead of being the generous and sympathising friend, was indifferent to the dangers and the sufferings of Ireland, having been defeated by the measures, at once liberal and prudent, which Parliament has almost unanimously sanctioned.

During the six years of the present Administration the improvement of Ireland and the content of our fellow-countrymen in that island have much occupied the care of the Ministry, and they may remember with satisfaction that in this period they have solved one of the most difficult problems connected with its government and people, by establishing a system of public education open to all classes and all creeds.

Nevertheless, a danger in its ultimate results scarcely less disastrous than pestilence or famine, and which now engages your Excellency's anxious attention, distracts that country. A portion of its population is attempting to sever the constitutional tie which unites it to Great Britain in that bond which has favoured the power and prosperity of both.

It is to be hoped that all men of light and leading will resist this destructive doctrine. The strength of this nation depends on the unity of feeling which should pervade the United Kingdom and its widespread dependencies. The first duty of an English Minister should be to consolidate that co-operation which renders irresistible a community educated, as our own, in an equal love of liberty and law.

And yet there are some who challenge the expediency of the Imperial character of this realm. Having attempted, and failed, to enfeeble our colonies by their policy of decomposition, they may perhaps now recognise in the disintegration of the United Kingdom a mode which will not only accomplish, but precipitate, their purpose.

The immediate dissolution of Parliament will afford an opportunity to the nation to decide upon a course which will materially influence its future fortunes and shape its destiny.

Rarely in this century has there been an occasion more critical. The power of England and the peace of Europe will largely depend on the verdict of the country. Her Majesty's present Ministers have hitherto been enabled to secure that peace so necessary to the welfare of all civilised countries and so peculiarly the interest of our own. But this ineffable blessing cannot be obtained by the passive principle of non-interference. Peace rests on the presence, not to say the ascendancy, of England in the councils of Europe. Even at this moment the doubt supposed to be inseparable from popular election, if it does not diminish, certainly arrests her influence, and is a main reason for not delaying an appeal to the national voice. Whatever may be its consequence to her Majesty's present advisers, may it return to Westminster a Parliament not unworthy of the power of England and resolved to maintain it.

I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your faithful servant,
BEACONSFIELD.

A meeting of the leaders of the Liberal party was held on Wednesday at Devonshire House, when the address of the Marquis of Hartington to the electors of North-East Lancashire was under consideration. Amongst those present were Earl Granville, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. John Bright, Mr. Lowe, Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Childers, Mr. Adam, and Mr. Shuttleworth, the chairman of the Marquis of Hartington's principal committee in Lancashire.

Lord Hartington has issued his address to the electors of North-East Lancashire. He asks them to give a proof of the confidence he believes they feel in the principles of the party to which he belongs. Referring to Lord Beaconsfield's letter, the Marquis disputes the statements contained in it in reference to the integrity of the Empire and the policy of decomposition as applied to our Colonies. With regard to Home Rule, his Lordship believes the demand for it impracticable, and says he has opposed it and shall continue to do so. He states that the Liberal party co-operated with the Government on Irish University Education, but considers that much remains to be done for Ireland. Referring to the Premier's remarks about the peace of Europe, Lord Hartington observes that Ministers did not prevent, even if their policy did not cause, a war in the East of Europe, and that the ascendancy of England has been claimed in circular but surrendered in secret Conventions. After a retrospect of Ministerial policy as to Foreign affairs, his Lordship claims for the Liberal party that they have always desired to maintain the just influence of England in the councils of Europe, and asserts that the domestic consequence of the policy of the Government has been stagnation in internal reforms and financial confusion. In conclusion, his Lordship claims support for the Liberal party on the ground that, while they will uphold the power of the Empire, they will engage in no policy of disturbance or uncalculated-for annexation.

Sir Stafford Northcote, in his address to the electors of North Devon, states in detail what the present Parliament has effected, both in foreign affairs and in domestic legislation. As to the financial policy of the Government, which he says has been assailed with a bitterness easily to be understood, he contents himself with pointing out that, after a period of almost unexampled commercial depression and of grave agricultural losses, during which they have had to incur the expense of defending English interests in three different quarters of the globe, the taxation of the country is lighter than in almost any year previous to the accession of the present Government to power, while the real amount of the National Debt stands now at £18,000,000 below the sum at which the present Government found it.

Preparations for the coming general election are actively proceeding in most of the constituencies. Among the earliest addresses issued was that of Mr. Shaw to his Cork constituents—a Home Rule manifesto; those of Mr. W. E. Forster at Bradford, Mr. Bourke and Lord Claud Hamilton to the King's Lynn electors, and a joint address of the members for Birmingham—Mr. Bright, Mr. Muntz, and Mr. Chamberlain.

PROMINENT CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The following is a list of the leading candidates seeking election to the new Parliament. The names of those gentlemen who are not members of the present House of Commons are distinguished by an asterisk (*), while a dagger (†) is prefixed to the names of those members of the existing Parliament who intend to seek the suffrages of constituencies other than those which they now represent:—

Bedford, 2.—Mr. S. Whitbread (L), Captain Polhill-Turner (C), *Mr. C. Magniac (L).
Belfast, 2.—Mr. J. P. Corry (C), Mr. W. Ewart (C), *Dr. Seeds (C).
Berkshire, 3.—Mr. J. Walter (L), Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay (C), *Mr. P. Wroughton (C).
Birmingham, 3.—Right Hon. John Bright (L), Mr. P. H. Muntz (L), Mr. J. Chamberlain (L), *Major Burnaby (C), *Hon. A. C. G. Calthorpe (C).
Boston, 2.—Mr. W. J. Ingram (L), Mr. T. Garitt (C), *Mr. C. Buxton (C), *Mr. G. F. Rowley (C).
Bradford, 2.—Right Hon. W. E. Forster (L), Mr. H. W. Ripley (C), *Mr. A. Hingworth (L).
Bristol, 2.—Mr. S. Morley (L), Mr. L. Fry (L), *The Marquis of Worcester (C), *Lord Ashley (C).
Buckingham, 1.—Mr. E. Hubbard (C), *Sir H. Verney (L).
Buckinghamshire, 3.—Sir R. B. Harvey (C), Mr. N. G. Lambert (L), the Hon. T. F. Fremantle (C), *the Hon. Rupert Carington (L).
Burnley, 1.—Mr. Peter Rylands (L), *Lord E. Talbot (C).
Cambridge University, 2.—Right Hon. S. H. Walpole (C), Mr. A. J. Beresford-Hope (C).
Cambridgeshire, 3.—The Right Hon. H. B. Brand (L) (the Speaker), Mr. Hunter Rodwell (C), Mr. E. Hicks (C).
Cardiff, 1.—*Mr. E. J. Reed (L), *Mr. A. Guest (C).
Carlisle, 2.—Mr. R. Ferguson (L), Sir Wilfrid Lawson (L).
Cavan, 2.—Mr. J. C. Fay (H R), Mr. J. G. Biggar (H R).
Chatham, 1.—Mr. J. E. Gorst (C), *Rear-Admiral the Hon. Carr Glyn (L).
Chelsea, 2.—Sir C. Dilke (L), *Mr. J. B. Firth (L), *Lord Inverurie (C), *Mr. Browne (C).
Chester, 2.—Mr. H. C. Raikes (C), Right Hon. J. G. Dodson (L), *Hon. B. Lawley (L).
Clackmannanshire, 1.—Right Hon. W. P. Adam (L), *Mr. J. R. Haig (C).
Cork County, 2.—Mr. W. Shaw (H R), Colonel Colthurst (H R), *Sir G. Colthurst (C), *Mr. J. Byrne (H R).
Denbighshire, 2.—Sir W. Wynne (C), Mr. O. Morgan (L).
Derby, 2.—Mr. T. M. Bass (L), Mr. S. Pimmsoll (L).
Devon, North, 2.—Sir Stafford Northcote (C), Sir Thomas Acland (L).
Dublin, 2.—Sir A. B. Guinness (C), Mr. M. Brookes (H R).
Dublin University, 2.—The Hon. D. R. Plunket (C), the Right Hon. E. Gibson (C).
Dungarvan, 1.—Mr. F. H. O'Donnell (H R), *Mr. J. C. Howe (H R).
Durham City, 2.—Mr. F. H. Hirschell (L), Sir A. E. Middleton (L), *Mr. J. L. Wharton (C).
Edinburgh City, 2.—Mr. Duncan M'Laren (L), Mr. J. Cowan (L).
Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities, 1.—Dr. Lyon Playfair (L), *Dr. Buchanan (C).
Edinburghshire (Midlothian), 1.—Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone (L), Earl of Dalkeith (C).
Elgin District, 1.—Mr. Grant Duff (L).
Essex, West, 2.—Sir H. J. S. Ibbetson (L), Lord Eustace Cecil (C).
Exeter, 2.—Mr. A. Mills (C), *Mr. H. S. Northcote (C), *Mr. E. Johnson (L).
Finsbury, 2.—Mr. W. T. McCullagh Torrens (L), Sir A. Lusk (L), *Major Francis Duncan (C).
Galway County, 2.—Major Nolan (H R), Mr. Mitchell Henry (H R).
Glasgow, 3.—Dr. Cameron (L), Mr. George Anderson (L), Mr. C. Tennant (L), *Mr. J. A. Campbell (C), *Sir James Bain (C).
Gloucestershire, East, 2.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach (C), Mr. J. R. Yorke (C).
Gravesend, 1.—Captain Pim (C), *Mr. T. Bevan (L), *Sir F. W. Truscott, (Lord Mayor) (C).
Greenwich, 2.—Mr. T. W. Board (C), *Baron de Worms (C), *Mr. W. H. Stone (L), *Mr. E. Saunders (L).
Hackney, 2.—Mr. J. Holms (L), Professor Fawcett (L), *Mr. G. C. T. Bartley (C).
Halifax, 2.—The Right Hon. J. Stansfeld (L), Mr. J. D. Hutchinson (L), *Mr. W. Barber (C).
Hampshire, North, 2.—Mr. W. W. B. Beach (C), the Right Hon. G. Selater-Booth (C).
Hampshire, South, 2.—Lord H. Scott (C), the Right Hon. W. Cowper-Temple (L), *Mr. F. Compton (C).
Kent, Mid, 2.—Sir W. Hart-Dyke (L), *Sir E. Filmer (C), *Mr. E. Cazalet (L).
Lambeth, 2.—Sir James C. Lawrence (L), Mr. W. M'Arthur (L), *Mr. Morgan Howard (C).
Lancashire, North, 2.—Colonel Stanley (C), Mr. T. H. Clifton (C).
Lancashire, North-East, 2.—Mr. J. M. Holt (C), Mr. J. P. C. Starke (C), *the Marquis of Hartington (L), *Mr. R. W. Grafton (L).
Lancashire, South-East, 2.—The Hon. E. Egerton (C), Mr. Hardcastle (C).
Lancashire, South-West, 2.—Right Hon. R. A. Cross (C), Colonel Ireland Blackburne (C).
Launceston, 1.—Sir Hardinge Giffard (C), the Solicitor-General, *Mr. R. Collier (L).
Leeds, 3.—Mr. W. S. Wheelhouse (C), Mr. J. Tennant (C), Mr. Barran (L), *Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone (L).
Leicester, 2.—Mr. F. A. Taylor (L), Mr. A. M'Arthur (L), *Mr. J. H. B. Warner (C).
Leicestershire, North, 2.—Lord John Manners (C), *Colonel E. S. Burnaby (C), *Mr. Hussey Pake (L).
Lincolnshire, Mid, 2.—Mr. H. Chaplin (C), Hon. E. Stanhope (C).
Liskeard, 1.—Mr. L. H. Courtney (L), and *Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie (L).
Liverpool, 3.—Lord Sandon (C), Mr. E. Whitley (C), Mr. W. Rathbone (L), and *Lord Ramsay (L).
London City, 4.—Alderman Cotton (C), Mr. J. G. Hubbard (C), *Mr. R. N. Fowler (C), *Alderman William Lawrence (L), *Mr. R. Martin (L), *Rev. Dr. Parker (Ind.).
London University, 1.—Right Hon. R. Lowe (L), *Mr. Arthur Charles (C).
Louth County, 2.—Mr. A. M. Sullivan (H R), Mr. G. H. Kirk (H R).
Maidstone, 2.—Sir J. Lubbock (L), Sir Sydney Waterlow (L), *Major Ross (C), *Captain Aylmer (C).
Manchester, 3.—Mr. H. Birley (C), Mr. Jacob Bright (L), *Mr. J. Slagg (L), *Mr. W. H. Houldsworth (C).
Marylebone, 2.—Sir Thomas Chambers (L), *Mr. D. Grant (L), *Mr. F. Seager Hunt, *Lord Headley (C).
Meath County, 2.—Mr. N. Ennis (H R), Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell (H R).
Middlesex, 2.—Lord George Hamilton (C), Mr. O. E. Coope (C).
Montrose District, 1.—The Right Hon. W. E. Baxter (L).
Morpeth, 1.—Mr. T. Burt (L).
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.—Mr. Joseph Cowen (L), Mr. C. F. Hamond (C), *Mr. Ashton W. Dilke (L).
Northampton, 2.—Mr. P. Phipps (C), Mr. C. G. Merewether (C), *Mr. C. Bradlaugh (R), *Mr. W. T. Wright (L).
Oxford City, 2.—Sir W. Harcourt (L), Mr. Hall (C), *Mr. J. Chitty (L).
Pontefract, 2.—The Right Hon. H. O. E. Childers (L), *Mr. S. Wolf (L), *Mr. E. Greene, *Mr. J. Shaw (C).
Reading, 2.—Mr. G. Shaw-Lefevre (L), Mr. G. Palmer (L).
Ripon, 1.—*Right Hon. G. J. Goschen (L).
Sheffield, 2.—Mr. A. J. Mundella (L), Mr. Waddy (L), *Mr. C. Wortley (C).
Southwark, 2.—Mr. Wilford Catley (C), Mr. B. Clarke (C), *Professor Thorold Rogers (L), *Mr. A. Cohen, Q.C. (L).
Tamworth, 2.—Mr. Hamar Bass (L).
Taunton, 2.—Sir Henry James (L), *Mr. Roger Eykyn (L), *Sir W. Palliser (C), Mr. W. W. Cargill (C).
Tower Hamlets, 2.—Mr. J. D. Samuda (L), Mr. C. T. Ritchie (C), *Professor Bryce (L), Mr. B. Lucraft (L).
Waterford City, 2.—Mr. R. Power (H R), Major O'Gorman (H R).
Westminster, 2.—Right Hon. W. H. Smith (C), Sir Charles Russell (C), *Sir A. Hobbhouse (L), *Mr. John Morley (L).

A telegram from Capetown states that the Government has refused to accede to the petition of the Basutos against disarmament.

Mr. Tysson-Amherst, of Didlington Hall, a Conservative, was on Monday elected member for West Norfolk, in succession to the late Sir W. Bagge, who was also a Conservative.

The *London Gazette* states that the Queen has given orders for the following promotions in and appointments to the order of the Bath:—To be Knights Commanders—Colonel Charles Patton Keyes, Madras Staff Corps, and Colonel Campbell Clave Grant Ross, Bengal Staff Corps. To be Companion—Colonel Henry James Buchanan, half pay, late 9th Regiment.



THE AFGHAN WAR: CHARGE OF CAVALRY IN THE ACTION OF DEC. 11, TO COVER THE RETREAT OF THE GUNS.—SEE PAGE 262.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

Our large Engraving, from a Sketch by Lieutenant Neville Chamberlain, of the 2nd Central India Horse, aide-de-camp to General Sir F. Roberts at Cabul, represents the action of Dec. 11, at Urghundeh, in the Chardeh Valley, when a cavalry charge was made for the purpose of recovering four guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, which had been abandoned temporarily in very difficult ground. These guns belonged to the F Battery of the A Brigade, R.H.A., and were attached to the force of Brigadier-General Macpherson, which had been sent out to co-operate with that under General Baker, and to defeat the junction of the Ghuzni force of the enemy with their allies from Kohistan. General Macpherson's brigade consisted of four Horse Artillery and four mountain guns, a squadron 9th Lancers, two squadrons 14th Bengal Lancers, six companies 67th Foot, and 900 of the Goorkhas and 3rd Sikhs. On the 10th Macpherson engaged the Kohistan insurgents, who had advanced quicker than was expected, and turned them back northwards, with a loss to himself of one officer and six men wounded. He bivouacked with his infantry for the night in the hills, concealing his movements as far as possible, and hoping that the defeat of the Kohistan men would not be known to the Ghuzni body, which it was expected would come on unsuspectingly the next day from Urghundeh, and fall into the trap that was laid for it. His cavalry and Horse Artillery Macpherson left meantime encamped at Kila Afghan, only four or five miles from Sherpore.

General Roberts, by way of making the matter still more certain, arranged that General Massy should take command of Macpherson's cavalry and Horse Artillery the next day. By his following the valley, while Macpherson and the infantry marched by the hills towards Urghundeh, it seemed certain that the escape of the insurgents would be prevented, and that, if they could not be brought to effective action, they would be driven back upon Baker. The plot was in fair way to succeed, but, owing apparently to a miscalculation of time or other causes, it so fell out that Massy did not get into communication with Baker, and commenced his march up the valley towards Urghundeh while Macpherson was still some miles behind in the hills. Presently Massy came in sight of some villages, occupied apparently by the enemy's infantry in no great strength. He opened fire upon them at about 3000 yards, with, it is said, good effect; but the enemy then deployed great numbers of men, and, after shelling them from a still further advanced position, and finding them come on in large numbers in great regularity and confidence, Massy decided to fall back, in hope of getting support from Macpherson. The enemy, however, continued to press after him with such speed as to envelope the flanks of Massy's small force, while the country became extremely unfavourable for the ready movement of guns, being rough and intersected with deep water-cuts. To gain time, the guns again opened fire, and, as the enemy could not be checked, a charge was ordered of all the 9th Lancers available at the moment, said to be about eighty men, supported by the 14th Bengal Lancers, who numbered about sixty. The reason of the 9th Lancers being thus weak was that one troop was engaged with a body of cavalry who were trying to turn the right, while another troop had been detached to find Macpherson. The 14th Bengal Lancers were weak from similar causes. However, the charge, though quite unsuccessful in checking the enemy, was a gallant one, and was gloriously led by Lieutenant-Colonel Cleland and his officers. Lieutenant-Colonel Cleland and Captain Mackenzie were both badly wounded, and Lieutenants Harsey and Ricardo killed. The guns meanwhile could not be extricated from the difficulties they had got into. A second charge of the cavalry was ordered, but the loss of officers and the boldness of the Afghan infantry made it quite ineffectual. Retreat then became necessary; and as the guns were hopelessly entangled they were left, and fell into the enemy's hands, the gunners unhooking and riding to the rear. The 14th Bengal Cavalry are said by all to have covered the retreat with great steadiness, under Captain Neville, whose subaltern, Lieutenant Forbes, was killed. Lieutenant Hardy, of the battery, was also killed.

Massy's mishap had been witnessed by General Roberts himself, he having ridden out from Sherpore that morning, with a numerous staff, hoping to witness the successful execution of his carefully-laid plans. He arrived on the ground just as the cavalry made the first charge; and, as an old artillery officer, comprehending at once the seriousness of the case, desired the battery officers to retire their guns slowly in action, and to seek for the best road to pass them to the rear. The ardour, however, with which the Afghans—always formidable in situations of this kind—pressed on the guns was so great that General Roberts's directions were not carried out, and the guns, as above related, were temporarily lost. For some time there was great confusion and demoralisation both among the artillerymen and, to a less extent, among the 9th Lancers; but the General's presence and the steady attitude maintained by the 14th Bengal Lancers at last restored some degree of order to the main body, while the efforts of some of General Roberts's Staff, and particularly of a volunteer, Captain Deane, were efficacious in rallying the remainder. The General, who at once comprehended the whole situation and dreaded the triumphant entry of the Afghan insurgents into Cabul, immediately took the cavalry to the Deh Mazung defile, which, with great forethought, he had already ordered to be occupied by some companies of the 72nd. The enemy, as he expected, made at once for this defile, which gave them the easiest access to Cabul, but hesitated on receiving the fire of the 72nd, and contented themselves for the time by taking position on some of the high hills with which the city is encircled. In the meanwhile Macpherson, who was three or four miles away, hearing Massy's guns, altered the direction of his march to come to Massy's assistance, and passing very nearly over the field of battle, but without suspecting that the lost guns were so near him, he overtook the rear of the enemy, who in their anxiety to reach Cabul had not stopped to carry away their prize. He was only able, however, to bring the enemy to distant action, and then, not comprehending the real situation of matters, and how important his presence was at Deh Mazung, he retraced his steps in pursuit of a comparatively unimportant body of the enemy, and it was only late in the day that he joined Roberts at Deh Mazung.

It has been said that a party of the 9th Lancers, who seem to have taken a different line of retreat from the main body, had been rallied by Captain Deane and other officers. By great good fortune, Colonel Macgregor, the Chief of the Staff, found this party, and at once determined to recover the guns. This he effected under some opposition from a few stragglers of the enemy and from the adjacent villages; and meeting the guard over Macpherson's baggage returning to Sherpore, he took advantage of it to consign the guns to its care until fresh teams could be sent for. The guns were safely lodged in Sherpore by evening. Colonel Macgregor's prompt determination and the resolute way in which he set about recovering the guns are the theme of universal praise. It should also be mentioned that Major Badcock, the head of General Roberts's Commissariat, Captain Deane, of the Military Secretariat, and

Lieutenant Liddell, A.D.C. to the Viceroy, who were all three in the field as volunteers, with Dr. Lowe of the battery, and Captain Matthews of the Survey, assisted in the recovery and extrication of the guns, and are entitled to share in the credit.

There is no positive news of actual military movements in Afghanistan this week, but it is reported that Mohamed Jan and Mir Batcha, with 11,000 men, are on the road from Ghuzni towards Cabul, and that the Loghur valley tribes are mustering to join them in a renewed conflict. On the other hand, Mohamed Jan's present disposition is thought uncertain, and he has not yet finally rejected the British overtures of peace.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

EFFECTS OF THE CONTRACTION AND WORK OF MUSCLES.

Professor E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S., in his eighth lecture, given on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., resumed the consideration of the fatigue and eventual exhaustion consequent upon the contraction and work of muscle, illustrated by experiments and references to the researches of eminent physiologists. The increase of fatigue has been shown to be quite gradual and proportional to the amount of work done; and Kronecker has proved that when a muscle is made by its contraction to raise a certain weight a number of times in regular succession the line connecting the summits of the vertical lines, which the muscle may be made to inscribe upon a regularly shifted glass surface, is a straight line. Fatigue is also accompanied by an increase of extensibility both at rest and in contraction, and by a diminution of irritability. A muscle worked to exhaustion, so that it will no longer respond to stimuli, will recover, even when removed from the body, and therefore deprived of the renewing influence of blood. The longer the interval between the successive stimuli given to a muscle the more complete is the recovery, and the more slowly do fatigue and exhaustion intervene. Some muscles, such as that composing the heart, recover more readily than others. Blacksmiths were described as continuing their work longer when the blows given by them are in rhythm; and Dr. Haughton has shown that the amount of work performed by a muscle worked to exhaustion is inversely proportional to the rate of work. The Professor, in reference to the cause of fatigue and exhaustion, said that they seem largely due to the accumulation of acid products in muscular substance in accordance with the researches of Berzelius, Du Bois-Reymond, and Ranke; and restoration, it has been shown, may take place by careful neutralisation. The want of oxygen seems also connected with exhaustion. Among his experiments, Professor Schäfer showed that carbonic acid is produced when a muscle contracts in greater quantity than when it is left at rest, and that it is not immediately dependent on the absorption of oxygen; and he also proved, by the thermopile and galvanometer, that heat is evolved when a muscle contracts, and is increased by increasing tension, as stated by Heidenhain. In regard to the relation between the production of heat and work, he described how Fick had proved that less heat is produced by the contraction of muscle when work is performed.

RECENT CHEMICAL PROGRESS.

Professor Dewar, M.A., F.R.S., began his sixth lecture, given on Thursday, the 4th inst., with some additional remarks on the relations discovered to exist between fluorescence, phosphorescence, and calorescence, and the spectra of various bodies, and also on the peculiar tendency of some of them to absorb certain coloured rays and emit others. He then commented on the properties of the remarkable metal selenium, which is fusible, combustible, and in many respects similar to sulphur and phosphorus, being, like them, allotropic—that is, changing its form at different degrees of temperature. In the amorphous state selenium is a non-conductor of electricity, but when it is heated slightly its structural character is changed, it becomes crystalline, and, moreover, a conductor of electricity, and when exposed to a brilliant light the conductivity is much increased. This was well shown by ingenious arrangements with the electric lamp, a large deflection of the galvanometer being obtained from a feeble current. Some observations were then made on the effects produced in spectra by modifications in the chemical composition of the substances employed, reference being made to oxidation. In regard to the special office of certain parts of the solar spectrum in promoting vegetation, the Professor noticed the suggestion, that chlorophyll, the green colouring matter of plants, might have a protective and regulating influence in regard to the development of albuminous matters. After some remarks on the spectrum of the aurora, the vapour of sulphuric acid was exhibited as an interesting example of a fluorescent gas. Stokes's law respecting fluorescence was also considered. Professor Dewar then made some observations on various systems for grouping elementary bodies proposed to replace the present system, in which hydrogen is taken as the unit, specially noticing those of Stas and Mendelejeff, and he alluded to M. Le Coq de Boisbaudran's discovery of the new metal Gallium, through the study of the relation of the atomic numbers of the known elements and the exponents of their ratios of combination with each other. Finally, he referred to the important influence which the advances in photographic chemistry and spectrum analysis have exercised in the scientific production of colouring matters from benzole, discovered in coal-tar by Faraday.

DEEP-SEA DREDGING AND LIFE IN THE DEEP SEA.

Mr. H. N. Moseley, M.A., F.R.S., who gave the discourse at the evening meeting on Friday, the 5th inst., began with an account of the physical conditions under which life occurs in the deep sea, and then described the improved apparatus for deep-sea dredging introduced since the Challenger expedition by Mr. Alexander Agassiz. All marine animal and plant life, it was said, originates in shallow water, and spreads thence into the land and into the depths. Only one plant exists in the depths, a parasitic fungus infecting corals, the absence of sunlight excluding others. Many genera of all groups of animals, and even not a few species, range from the shores down to very great depths, and one species of coral ranges from thirty to 2900 fathoms; but some well marked deep-sea forms are not now met with in shallow water, unless in polar regions. As there is scarcely any difference in the physical conditions of life from a depth of 500 fathoms downwards, deep-sea fauna exhibit no zones of distribution in depth. It is impossible to recognise a geological deposit as formed in the deep sea, from the nature of its fossil contents. The deep-sea fauna is world wide in its distribution, there being no barriers to emigration; and there seems to be a close relation between the pelagic fauna and the deep-sea fauna. Mr. Moseley said that the most important question now to be solved in regard to deep-sea life, is the range of life at the various depths between the surface and the bottom of the ocean. Of this nothing is known; but there may be a wide zone devoid of life. To determine this, he has devised a net, which by an electrical arrangement can be opened and closed at will at any depth. Some deep-sea animals possibly pass their early life at the sea surface. As the deep-sea basins are probably of the

remotest geological antiquity, it is remarkable that scarcely any ancient animals occur amongst the deep-sea fauna. Almost all which survive are found in comparatively shallow water. In the deep sea the fish are of modern origin, being allies of the cod, salmon, and angler, and it contains scarcely a single animal of first-rate zoological importance. It was probably uninhabitable in early geological times, being highly charged with salts and gases in solution, and mud in suspension, the result of its primitive boiling condition. In regard to the senses of deep-sea animals, Mr. Moseley remarked that they must depend for sight upon their phosphorescence, and probably rely mainly on touch. No investigations have been made respecting their hearing. They abound more towards the upper limit of their range, their food being derived from the sea surface and the shores. Some animals are dwarfed and others enlarged by deep-sea life, and they are accompanied by their usual parasites. Some retain the colours of their shallow-water ancestors, but some of these colours are probably due to chemical compounds required for physiological purposes. A bottle containing a solution of the bright red colouring matter of a deep sea pentacrinus was exhibited, and it was shown to be green when alkaline, and red when acid. The discourse was illustrated by numerous magnified photographed figures thrown on the screen.

DRYDEN'S LIFE AND POETICAL WORK.

Mr. George Saintsbury, in beginning his second lecture, on Saturday last, the 6th inst., said that perhaps there never was so great a writer as Dryden, who was so thoroughly occasional in his greatness, and to whom it seemed impossible to originate a theme, as shown in his best pieces, for the subjects of which he was indebted to Shakspeare, Boccaccio, and Chaucer. His office was to control the peaceable resolution of a literature, to shape a language to new uses, and to help writers, for a century after his death, to vocabulary, versification, and style. He was born on Aug. 9, 1631, both parents being Puritans, and was educated at Westminster and Cambridge. His poetical growth was slow, and his first poem, an elegy on Lord Hastings (about 1647), was singularly bad. At his father's death, he became the guest of his cousin, Sir Gilbert Pickering, in high favour with the Protector, and he wrote stanzas at Oliver's death; but with the Restoration his life was entirely changed. He became the friend of Davenant, married Lady Elizabeth Howard, and was mixed up with the literary society of the Royalists, writing for the booksellers. Great advances in power, style, and versification appear in his "Annus Mirabilis" and "Astræa Redux," as was shown in extracts read by Mr. Saintsbury; yet he said if Dryden had never written better he would not have reigned as he did reign. After this Dryden spent fourteen years in studying great writers, and the fruits appeared in his masterly satire, "Absalom and Achiophel," and in other poems, works of such concentrated force and noble versification as had never hitherto been known in English poetry. To Dryden's satire Mr. Saintsbury well applied the saying, "It is founded upon the most sacred of things—truth; and built up by the most beautiful of things—imagination." Of his "Religio Laici," a defence of the Church of England and Revealed Religion, Dryden appears as a great didactic poet. Mr. Saintsbury read the fine opening lines. Comments were then made upon the peculiar merits of some of the later works, including the "Threnodia Augustalis" (on the death of Charles II.), the "Britannia Rediviva," and "The Hind and the Panther;" and, in regard to the last, Mr. Saintsbury warmly defended Dryden from the charge of insincerity on his becoming a Roman Catholic. At the Revolution in 1689 he lost the laureateship, which he had held since 1668, and his pensions; and, although helped by Dorset and other old friends, had to write for his living, chiefly plays and translations from the classics, then popular. Shortly after the publication of his "Fables," in which his genius and accomplishments are eminently conspicuous, the poet died, on May 1, 1701.

Professor Tyndall will give a discourse on Goethe's work, "Farbenlehre" ("The Theory of Colours") at the next Friday evening meeting, March 20, the last before the Easter recess.

On Wednesday evening a paper on Recent Advances in the Production of Lambeth Art-Pottery was read to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, by John Sparkes, Esq., Head Master of the National Art-Training School, South Kensington.

Mr. Donald Currie read a paper on "Maritime Warfare," at a meeting of the Royal United Service Institution yesterday week, and submitted a scheme whereby he considered mercantile steam-vessels could be made available in times of emergency for war purposes and may become a valuable auxiliary force to the Royal Navy. The Marquis of Lansdowne presided. The reading of the paper was followed by a discussion, in which Admiral Sir W. K. Hall, Sir Spencer Robinson, and Captain J. C. Colomb took part. The further consideration of the subject was adjourned.

The second of the series of "Literary Monday Afternoons," organised by Mr. Blanchard Jerrold for the benefit of the International Literary Association, was given on Monday, when Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., told the story of Dekker's comedy of "The Roaring Girl." Before commencing his lecture, Mr. McCarthy said that he had been erroneously announced as about to read the comedy of "The Roaring Girl." He did not mean to do so at all, but his intention was to tell in his own language the interesting story told in that play by Dekker. He referred to the doubts that had been cast upon the authorship of the play, but said that was not the point of interest at that moment, and he asked his audience to put aside with him, for the occasion, all such disputed matters. In following the story of "The Roaring Girl," who, he said, was an earlier type of our modern fast girl, and perhaps the most unique and striking figure in our dramatic literature, he dwelt upon the art with which Dekker, in a few flashes of conversation, as it were, had drawn the character of his heroine. He also mentioned a song sung by the Roaring Girl as an instance of the art of the master of the English language, which, as regarded musical effect, reminded him of another song in Goethe's "Faust," in which the German language was made as mellifluous as the Greek or the Italian.—The next "afternoon" will be devoted to Mr. W. R. A. Ralston, who will tell some Russian stories; and following him will come Sir Julius Benedict, who will lecture on Weber and give musical illustrations of his works.

A lecture on English Spelling—Past, Present, and Future, was given on Monday at the London Institution by the principal librarian, Mr. E. B. Nicholson, the audience being numerous. After alluding to his lecture last year on the kindred topic of "English Pronunciation," the lecturer sketched the origin and gradual development of the present modes of spelling, showing by examples the confusion of signs and sounds which arose prior even to the invention of printing, and the extension of the evil in consequence of the prominent part played by printers in the fixing of the standard of spelling. The present character of spelling might, he

observed, be described in one word, as "unphonetic," that is, not representing sounds. It has a great variety of signs, with the same sign; it has a great variety of signs, with the same sound; and it has used signs which have nothing whatever to do with the words either as they are spoken now or were spoken at any past time. Having given several instances of victory gained by printers over authors in the matter of spelling, he remarked that the printers' system had no consistency, as was shown by the fact that "succeed" and "recede," which were compounds of the same verb, in which the simple form appeared as "cede," were spelt differently. After contrasting the failure of a very large percentage of the children in the Board Schools to pass an examination in reading with the progress made where spelling is taught phonetically, he said the great thing is to recognise a word in any system, and that done, it is comparatively easy to recognise and remember variations in spelling. The facility of reading phonetic print he illustrated by himself reading some very fluently to the audience, having explained that he had previously never gone through more than a few pages of such print. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that the Government would grant a Royal Commission to inquire into the matter.

OBITUARY.

LORD HENRY LOFTUS.

Lord Henry Yorke Astley Loftus, who died on the 28th ult., was the youngest son of John, second Marquis of Ely, by Anna Maria, his wife, daughter of Sir H. W. Dashwood, Bart., was uncle of the present Marquis of Ely, and brother to Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B., late Ambassador at St. Petersburg. Lord Henry was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1843; and he had a Captain's commission in the Wexford Militia. He married, July 5, 1864, Louisa, Dowager Countess of Seaford, widow of Francis William, sixth Earl of Seaford, but had no issue.

SIR THOMAS B. BIRCH, BART.

Sir Thomas Bernard Birch, second Baronet, of The Hasles, Lancashire, died at his seat, near Prescott, on the 3rd inst., within a few days of completing his eighty-ninth year. He was the elder son of Sir Joseph Birch, Bart., of The Hasles (so created 1831), by Elizabeth Mary, his wife, third daughter of Benjamin Heywood, Esq., of Liverpool, and succeeded his father Aug. 22, 1833. Sir Thomas was educated at Rugby, and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1812 and M.A. 1816. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, 1817, and was Private Secretary to Lord Melbourne when Chief Secretary for Ireland. From 1847 to 1852 he sat in Parliament for Liverpool; and he was J.P. and D.L. for Lancashire, for which county he served as High Sheriff, 1841. The Baronet died unmarried, and his only brother having also died unmarried, the title is extinct.

SIR J. B. MACNEILL.

Sir John Benjamin MacNeill, LL.D., F.R.S., died on the 2nd inst., at his residence, Cromwell-road, South Kensington, aged eighty-seven. He was son of Torquil P. MacNeill, Esq., of Mount Pleasant, in the county of Louth. Formerly he was Professor of Civil Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin, and he received the honour of knighthood in 1844, on the occasion of the opening of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway, which he had constructed.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PICKARD.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Pickard, V.C., C.B., R.A., died on the 1st inst., at Cannes, in his thirty-ninth year. He was third son of H. W. Pickard, Esq., of 11, Carlton-crescent, Southampton. He early entered the Army, gained distinction in the New Zealand War, and was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was formerly Equerry to the Duke of Connaught, and at the time of his death Assistant Private Secretary and Assistant Keeper of the Privy Purse to her Majesty, who, with the other members of the Royal family, deeply deplores his loss.

* The following deaths have also been announced:—

William Leslie, Esq., of Warthill, formerly M.P. for Aberdeenshire, on the 4th inst., in his sixty-sixth year.

Dowager Lady Scourfield, on the 6th inst., aged sixty-five. She was daughter of John Lort Phillips, Esq., of Lawrenny.

Colonel James Buchanan Kirk, late 91st Royal Argyllshire Highlanders, on the 27th ult.

The Rev. John Bliss, M.A., on the 29th ult., at South Tawton, Devon, of which parish he was Vicar.

George Harrison Rogers-Harrison, Esq., Windsor Herald and Registrar of the College of Arms, a very old member of that well-known heraldic corporation, on the 2nd inst.

Henrietta Katherine Lady Burrell, widow of Sir Percy Burrell, Bart., M.P., and eldest daughter and coheir of the late Sir George Brook Pechell, Bart., on the 4th inst.

Major W. H. Hare, formerly of the 51st or K. O. L. Infantry, at his residence, The Retreat, near Plymouth, on the 4th inst., aged eighty-nine. He served in the Cornua campaign, in the Walcheren expedition, in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo, for which services he was awarded medals.

Joseph Harrison, Esq., of Galligraives Hall and Samlesbury, J.P. and D.L. of the county of Lancaster, on the 18th ult., at the first-named seat, near Blackburn, in his seventy-sixth year. His eldest son, William Harrison, Esq., F.S.A., is also J.P. and D.L. for Lancashire.

Jonas Foster, Esq., of Moor Park, Ludlow, and Cliffe Hill, Halifax, J.P., on the 26th ult., at Cannes, aged fifty-three. He was second son of John Foster, Esq., of Hornby Castle, Lancashire, by Ruth, his wife, daughter of the late Abraham Briggs, Esq., of Queensbury. He married, in 1863, Hannah Jane, second daughter of Colonel Stanfield, J.P., of Field House, Halifax, and leaves three daughters.

Augustus Granville Stapleton, Esq., of Warbrook, Hants, on the 26th ult. He was born in 1800, was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and was formerly private secretary to the Right Hon. George Canning and a Commissioner of Customs. He married, in 1825, Catherine, second daughter of John Bute, Esq., of Fleet, Devon, and leaves three sons and two daughters.

The Duke of Beaufort has accepted the presidency of the St. John Ambulance Association's centre at Monmouth.

The captain of the Brodie Castle, of Glasgow, which has been got into Valentia Harbour with great difficulty, reports that in the South Atlantic, off the lower part of South America, he encountered eight large icebergs. The presence of these bergs, so unusual at this time of the year, in Captain Seward's opinion, may account for many ships that are missing, as unsuspecting captains would not think of keeping a special lookout for them until the season is more advanced, and collisions might have taken place at night time.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope.

E H N (St. John-street).—The game was very smartly played, and it shall appear.
E P V.—Hereward's pretty device appears to have puzzled many of our correspondents.
H J C A (Sydenham).—Thanks for the report.
C Q (Dalston).—The problem shall have due honours. We shall always be glad to hear from you when you are "in the vein."
ST NICHOLAS (Newcastle).—We recollect the problem very well, and its solution also: 1. R takes K Kt P, P takes R (ch); 2. R to K R 7th (discovering ch) and interposing; 3. K to Kt 3rd; 3. B to K Kt sq, mate. The variations are not difficult.
CARLOS (Lille).—Surely 1. P to Q B 7th is a good defence to 1. B takes P.
W C D S (Northampton).—Promoting a Pawn to knightly rank for the purpose of mating in a two-move problem is much too simple a conception for publication.
HERWARD (Oxford).—You shall have a report upon the others in good time, but please bear in mind that we have a large number of problems to examine every week.
OSMO.—Your question was answered in this column a week ago.
W H M.—There is a chess club in Hackney, and at Dalston also. Write to the honorary secretary of the City of London Chess Club, Moulllet's Hotel, Newgate-street, E.C.
DABBISHILL and **F A B**.—See the solution below.
AMATEUR (Yarmouth, N.S.).—Your solution of No. 1875 is correct.
G M C A and **J F** (Edinburgh).—We are greatly obliged for the game and reports of your meeting.
A A T (Glasgow).—The game is very poorly conducted by the second player. Nevertheless, we are obliged to you for the trouble you have taken.
CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1878 received from G J V, Dr James Lewy, V E, Curry, J K Eddowes, M Gonzales, F Junta, Juan Carrasco, Woggepoll, Ponce Jones, and Bryanston Chess Club.
CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1879 received from C H P, Christie, Onno (Heidelberg), Carlos (Lille), Lulu, Emile Frau, M H Moorhouse, R H Brooks, Francis Wheatley, H M, M Gonzales, F Junta, Juan Carrasco, Hoptede de Groot (Groningen), Audley, Woggepoll, F Young, Pierce Jones, and W D Jones.
CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1880 received from H B, P Le Page, Schoolboy A E Old, H Barrett, An Old Hand, Juniper Junior, N Cator, D W Kell, W Scott, Robert Shaw, F A Bright, T D H, W D Jones, Pierce Jones, R Stebbing, E Ingorsoll, N Warner, Kitten, H Langford, Helen Lee, Cholwell, Z Ingold, Pops, Francis Wheatley, W P Welch, R Jessop, Elsie, B L Dyke, Nerina, S Stripe, W S Leest, G C St (Marselles), A H Empson, J A S, Onno (Heidelberg), W H Miles, R Gray, G Fosbrooke, L Sharswood, O S Cox, T Greenbank, W P Gardside, Lulu, A J Eddowes, Carlos (Lille), V E Curry, W J Jubb, A H Tongue, Emile Frau, Ben Nevis, D Templeton, S Farrant, E Elsbury, Arthur Ashe (aged eleven), E J Johnson, F Young, L Noren (Sweden), M H Moorhouse, N D P S, R H Brooks, E H H V, Smutch, O J Stephen, Leslie Lachlan, Norman Rumbelow, A Country Cousin, Baz, Alpha, G R Dalton, H Geisow, Hereward, D Bell, Cant, G L Mayne, L G Batson, J W W, D L Curtis, E P Villiamy, J Macaulay, Vignoles, F W Middleton, P O'Brien, A R, W M Arthur, King, Frederick West, F W, W O B, F W (Portland), Julia Short, Fritz, Tobias, M O'Halloran, Fernando de Francisco, Lilly and Conrade, W G H, Dr F St, Woggepoll, E L G, Shadforth, East Marden, Hereward, James Dobson, Bryanston Chess Club, W C D Smith, J R Dow, Ernest J Browne, Dabbishill, and T G H Glyn.

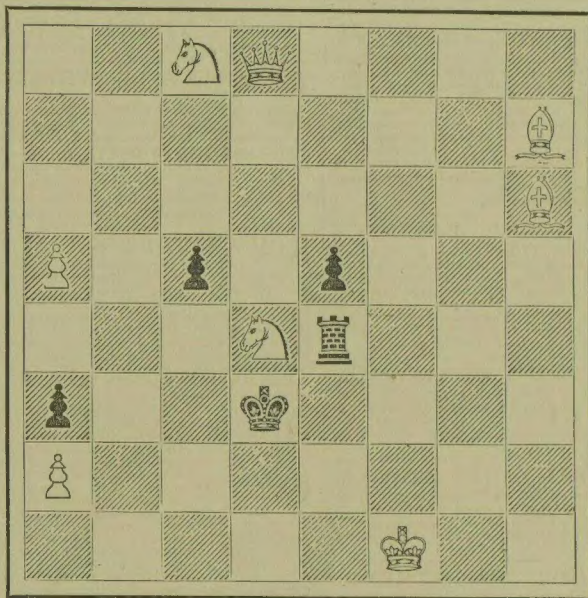
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1879.

WHITE.
1. B to Q Kt 2nd
2. B to Q B sq
3. K to Q 3rd, discovering checkmate.

BLACK.
K to K 5th
K to B 5th

PROBLEM No. 1882.

By S. H. Thomas.
BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

Played recently at Sokolniki, near Moscow, between Mr. AYLMER MAUDE and another AMATEUR.
(Vienna Game.)

WHITE (Amateur). 1. P to K 4th
2. Kt to Q B 3rd
3. B to B 4th
4. P to K B 4th
5. P to K B 5th
6. Kt takes Q P
7. Q to R 5th
8. Kt to K B 3rd
9. P takes Kt
10. B to Kt 5th (ch)
11. B takes B (ch)
12. P to Q 3rd
13. Q to R 4th
14. B to Q 2nd
15. Castles
16. Kt to K 4th
17. Kt to Kt sq
18. P to Kt 4th
19. P to Kt 5th
20. Kt takes P
21. B to B sq
22. R to K 2nd
23. R to B sq
24. Kt to K 4th
25. R to B 3rd
26. Q to Kt 4th
27. P to K R 4th
28. Q takes R
29. P takes Kt
30. B to Kt 2nd
31. K to B sq
32. K to Q sq
33. Kt to K 3rd
34. P to K 5th
35. Kt to K sq
36. Q to K sq
37. Kt to K 5th
38. Kt to K 5th
39. Kt to K 5th
40. Kt to K 5th
41. Kt to K 5th
42. Kt to K 5th
43. Kt to K 5th
44. Kt to K 5th
45. Kt to K 5th
46. Kt to K 5th
47. Kt to K 5th
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95. Kt to K 5th
96. Kt to K 5th
97. Kt to K 5th
98. Kt to K 5th
99. Kt to K 5th
100. Kt to K 5th

A match with twenty-seven competitors on each side was played by representative amateurs of the East and West of Scotland on the 28th ult., at the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh. Nearly all the most skilful Scottish amateurs engaged in the mêlée, paired according to their known or reputed chess force, and, with one exception, each pair played two games. The result was an easy victory for the East, whose aggregate score was thirty-two games won against eighteen lost, the remainder being drawn.

The prizes in the second tourney of the British Problem Association have been awarded as follows:—First prize, "Sobran"; second, "Brain Sauce"; third, "Wansbeck"; fourth, "Intelligitur plus quam," &c. The President's prize, for the best problem, is awarded to No. 3 of the set "Sobran"; that for the best two-move problem to No. 1 of the set "Wait"; and that for the best four-move problem to No. 3 of the set "Ben ti Voglio." The last-named position was published in our issue of Dec. 27 last. In the three-move problem competition the most eligible for prizes are declared to be No. 2 of "Wansbeck" and No. 2 of "Intelligitur"; but the award in these cases and also in the case of the third prize for the best set is provisional, pending an explanation from the author of the set, "Wansbeck," one of whose problems closely resembles a position published some time ago in the *Westminster Papers*. The three-move problem of "Brain Sauce" and the four-move problem of "Wansbeck" are highly commended.

A match between the Belize Chess Club and the fourth class of the City Chess Club was played at the rooms of the latter on the 5th inst. The following table shows the names of the competitors and their respective scores against each other:—

Won.	BELIZE.	Drawn.	CITY OF LONDON.	Won.
2	McLennan	...	Manning	0
0	Ridpath	...	Israel	1
1	Stuckey	...	Long	1
0	Gush	...	Templeton	1
0	Richards	...	Atkinson	1
0	Meckreth	...	Hopkinson	1
...	Ridpath, J.	...	Andrade	0
3		2		5

The City Club therefore won by a majority of two games.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Feb. 6, 1879) of George Scorer, late of No. 101, Piccadilly, Esq., who died on Feb. 14, 1880, has been proved in the principal registry by Alfred Scorer, Frederick Scorer, the sons, and John Jeffries Oakley. The testator, after making ample provision for his wife and family and bequeathing various legacies to his friends and acquaintances, gave the following charitable bequests—viz., to the St. George's Hospital, the Consumption Hospital, Fulham-road; the London Hospital, the Westminster Hospital, the Charing-Cross Hospital, £200 each. To the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond-street, £50. To the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor; St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, £100 each. To the Cancer Hospital, Brompton-road, and the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, £250 each. To the Truss Society, Wilson-street, Finsbury, £500; and to the Grocers' and Tea Dealers' Benevolent Protection Society, £500. The will also contained bequests of £1050 each to the St. George's Hospital, the Consumption Hospital, Fulham-road, the London Hospital, the Westminster Hospital, and the Charing-cross Hospital, upon trust to invest same in Three per Cent Consols and apply the dividends between fifteen patients of each of such hospitals annually on leaving the same: such patients to be nominated by the executive authority of each hospital.

The will (dated March 27, 1874) of Mr. Alfred Gilbey, late of the Pantheon, Oxford-street, and of Wooburn House, Wooburn, Bucks, wine merchant, who died on Nov. 28 last, was proved on the 23rd ult. by Mrs. Agnes Gilbey, the widow, Henry Parry Gilbey and Walter Gilbey, the brothers, and James Blyth and Henry Arthur Blyth, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £350,000. The testator devises and bequeaths all his real and personal estate to his wife absolutely, and appoints her guardian of his infant children during their respective minorities.

The will (dated Sept. 18, 1877) with a codicil (dated April 8, 1878) of Mr. Thomas Dives, late of Lavender Sweep, Battersea, who died on Jan. 27 last, was proved on the 21st ult. by Frederick Thomas Dives, the son, and William Costeker, the surviving executors, the personal estate being sworn under £250,000. With the exception of legacies to his executors, and annuities to his brother, George Dives, and his sister, Mrs. Jane Butler, the testator leaves all his real and personal estate upon trust for his children, Frederick Thomas Dives, Mrs. Fanny Stenning, Mrs. Clara Costeker, Mrs. Edith Mary Meiklejohn, Mrs. Marian Sarah Marshall, Miss Alice Kate Dives, and Miss Florence Mary Dives.

The will (dated June 21, 1879) of Mr. Thomas Jones, late of Aberystwith, in the county of Cardigan, merchant, who died on Jan. 8 last, was proved on the 7th ult. by Miss Anne Elizabeth Jones, the eldest daughter, and Edward John Jones, the son, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £80,000. The testator makes special devises and bequests to his said son and each of his daughters, also to the children of his two deceased sons, and the widow of one of them. The residue of his property is to be divided between his son and six daughters.

The will (dated Feb. 1, 1876) of the Rev. Archibald Allen Cameron, Incumbent of Hurst, Berkshire, who died on Jan. 12 last, was proved on the 4th ult. by Archibald John Mackey and Arthur Johnston Mackey, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £60,000. The testator leaves Hurst House to his wife for life, and then to his nephew, Captain Hugh Allen Mackey, on condition of his giving notice that he intends to make it his principal place of residence; and there are some other bequests. The testator's wife being already amply provided for, he leaves the residue of his property upon trust for his sister, Mrs. Mackey, and her husband during their lives and the life of the survivor of them, and then for his nephews and nieces, Hugh Allen Mackey, Archibald John Mackey, Arthur Johnston Mackey, Julia Ann Mackey, and Mary Mackey.

The will (dated Aug. 5, 1873) with two codicils (dated April 3, 1876, and Aug. 20, 1879) of Mr. Peter Beck, late of Shrewsbury, banker, who died on Dec. 28 last, has been proved by Peter Arthur Beck and John Downward, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £50,000. The testator leaves to his executors £50 each; to Edward Burd, M.D., nineteen guineas; and the residue of his real and personal estate upon trust for his nephews and nieces, and the widow and children of a deceased nephew, in various proportions.

The will (dated Dec. 17, 1878) with two codicils (dated Nov. 4 and Dec. 4, 1879) of Mr. Cornell Fison, late of Thetford, Norfolk, merchant, who died on Jan. 1 last, was proved on the 9th ult. by Cornell Henry Fison and Albert James Fison, the sons, and Charles Frederick Fison, the grandson, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £50,000. In lieu of any money being expended at his decease for a hearse, mourning coaches, hatbands, or scarves, the testator leaves 10s. to every poor widow in the borough of Thetford who shall apply for the same to his executors within six months of his decease; to his wife, in addition to other bequests, £800 per annum charged on his real estate, and his residence, Ford Place, for life; to his said son Albert James certain real estate and £15,000; to his daughter, Emily Lois, certain real estate and £2500; and legacies to relatives and persons in his employ. The residue of his property, real and personal, he gives to his said son Cornell Henry.

The committee of the Deaf and Dumb Females' Asylum, Clapton, has received a legacy of £100 from the late Miss Ellen Reardon.

A drawing-room meeting was held at Dulwich College, on the 4th inst., under the presidency of Dr. Carver, the Master, in support of the institutions which have been established in Paris by the exertions of Miss Ada Leigh, aided by M. Galignani. Donations to the amount of £130 were made.

As a consequence of the forthcoming dissolution of Parliament and the consequent general election, the Volunteer Field-day which it was proposed to hold at Brighton on Easter Monday will not now take place; but if any desire is expressed to hold it at Whitsuntide, the Government will offer the same facilities as they had been about to give at Easter.

A despatch from Major-General Newdigate, commanding the 2nd Division of the South African Field Force, to the Adjutant-General vindicating the conduct of the troops in South Africa from the aspersions of Dr. Russell has been laid before Parliament, with a letter from Lord Chelmsford, who indorses all that Major-General Newdigate has said regarding the behaviour and conduct of the troops that were under his command during the Zulu campaign, and adds that he had every reason to be satisfied with the cheerful and willing spirit shown by the non-commissioned rank and file of the whole force that marched with him from the Blood River to Ulundi, and he considers that the general conduct of the troops, so far as regards subordination and discipline on the line of march, was exemplary.

SIGNOR CIRO PINSUTI begs to announce he hopes to arrive in London on the 12th inst. Letters and inquiries to be addressed care of Lamborn Cook, 23, Holles-street, Oxford-street, E.C.

LITERARY INVESTMENT.—A Lady or Gentleman with £500 at command may become the Editor and Proprietor of an old-established Monthly Magazine. For Particulars address Messrs. EDWARDS and CRANEY, 4, Broad-street-buildings, E.C.

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Lewie Pocock, Hon. Secs.
112, Strand, Feb., 1880.

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HEAD MASTER—C. W. BOURNE, M.A. Cantab.
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BONUS. The Reversionary Bonus at the Quinquennial Division in January, 1877 (amounting to £37,014), averaged 50 per cent, and the Cash Bonus 30 per cent, on the Premiums paid in the five years. The Next Division of Profits will take place in January, 1882, and persons who effect New Policies before the end of June next will be entitled at that division to one year's additional share of profits over later entrants.

REPORT, 1879. The Fifty-fifth Annual Report, and the latest balance-sheets rendered to the Board of Trade, can be obtained at either of the Society's Offices, or of any of the Agents.
GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary.

£20 SCHOOL-ROOM PIANO (Co-operative price for cash). Seven octaves—strong, sound, and substantial. Adapted for hard practice. Carefully packed free, and sent to any part. Drawings gratis.
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